

Offensive threatens Sudan relief

NAIROBI (AP) — The Sudanese government is poised to attack the southern Sudanese towns of Nimule and Lafon in its expected dry-season offensive, threatening aid operations in the area, a U.N. spokeswoman said here Monday. Spokeswoman Sally Burnheim, speaking after touring the two towns at the weekend, said the impending attack could drastically affect the 100,000 refugees housed at the nearby Mugali displaced camp. The refugees are already vulnerable because they can no longer get relief supplies by land route from northern Uganda because of attacks carried out by northern Ugandan rebels. Sudan is said by Uganda to be supporting the attacks, possibly in order to cut off supplies to its own southern rebel region. Already landmine attacks by rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a group led by former Roman Catholic catechist Joseph Kony, have forced the United Nations to pull out its relief officials from the northern Ugandan town of Gulu, supplies in southern Sudan. Ms. Burnheim said that the SPLA commanders she met in the area anticipated an early Sudanese offensive.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية "الراي"

Hani Khalifa new envoy in Riyadh

AMMAN (AP) — Saudi Arabia has accepted the nomination of a new Jordanian ambassador and four other diplomats in a sign of rapprochement between the two countries, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday. The spokesman, Ahmad Mbeidin, said Hani Khalifa, who is currently Jordan's ambassador to Canada, will fill the spot left vacant by Nassir Batayneh in 1991. Mr. Mbeidin said Mr. Khalifa was expected in Riyadh "in a few weeks," and that he would be preceded by four other diplomats, including a first secretary, Mazen Kheir. He declined to name the other three diplomats. The new nominations will bring the total number of diplomats at the Jordanian embassy in Riyadh to six. Fakhri Matalqah, a charge d'affaires, is already in Riyadh. Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Sunday that Jordan's relations with Gulf Arabs were improving.

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Jordan, Israel resume negotiations in Tiberias

Work under way on northern crossing; no date yet

TIBERIAS (Agencies) — Jordan and Israel on Monday ended a first session of a two-day meeting dedicated to discussing water and border issues, the environment, energy, civil aviation and tourism.

Addressing reporters after the session, the head of the Jordanian negotiating team, Fayez Tarawneh, described the meeting as good and held in an atmosphere marked by full cooperation and desire on both sides to reach solutions for all outstanding issues.

Jordanian delegates privately told Reuters they were frustrated by the slow pace of previous rounds of talks and anxious for results soon, especially on the thorny issues of border demarcation and water rights.

Nonetheless, Dr. Tarawneh and Elyakim Rubinstein of Israel opened Monday's talks with jokes and handshakes for the cameras.

Asked if there might be an announcement of a breakthrough during the two-day talks, Dr. Tarawneh said: "We can't promise it. It is a matter of negotiations. But I

can say we have extremely serious negotiations (ahead) and we are trying to finish as much as we can."

In addition to the main bilateral talks, trilateral discussions including U.S. experts are to be held on the multimillion dollar Jordan Rift Valley development programme.

Mr. Rubinstein said of the environmental, tourism and business development plan: "The gap is quite small as to the Jordan Rift Valley plan."

Jordanian and Israeli officials were also working out details for a second temporary border crossing for third country passport holders in the northern part of their countries.

On Monday, Jordanian journalists crossed over the Jordan River into northern Israel on foot over a narrow, rickety bridge of metal and wood. They were then bussed to the talks' site, Jordan's peace team arrived in three helicopters.

Later, Israeli Radio stations quoted the spokesman for the Israeli team saying it was agreed the site of the northern crossing would be about

20 kilometres south of the Sea of Galilee at the old Sheikh Hussein Bridge.

Bulldozers and trucks could be seen at the site carving out a road on the Israeli side on Monday afternoon. Delegates said it was hoped the crossing would open by the end of October but that the date was up to "higher echelons."

The first border post, linking the southern Red Sea port cities of Aqaba and Eilat opened in August.

Israel and Jordan signed an agreement ending the 46-year state of belligerency between them in July. The accord committed the sides to work toward a full peace treaty.

The sides ended the last round of talks at Jordan's Dead Sea Spa hotel on Aug. 28, marking time on central issues of land and water but pressing forward on a range of less complex topics such as trade and tourism.

Dr. Tarawneh told reporters the various committees tackled their different tasks discussing border issues, land and water rights and these will pursue their discussions Tuesday.

"Discussions of the various aspects of these issues were continuing but no results were finalised yet," he said. "But the two sides are tackling all issues with seriousness in the spirit of the Washington Declaration."

Dr. Tarawneh added that an American technical team was also here trying to finalise the terms of reference of the plan for the development of the Jordan Valley region.

"We have covered good ground in the discussion and we are trying to combine items listed on Jordanian and Israeli working papers so that we can have general broad-lines of a comprehensive plan for the Jordan Rift Valley that would be put into effect once a final peace has been achieved," Dr. Tarawneh said.

In reply to a question about the opening of the northern border crossing point, Dr. Tarawneh said different technical aspects and the cost of the crossing point as well as its future links with the regular travel procedures were discussed but a decision

(Continued on page 7)

King returns, says visits to Germany, France highly fruitful

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home on Monday following official visits to France and Germany and a private visit to the United Kingdom.

In an arrival statement, King Hussein said the German and French presidents as well as senior officials in the two countries had reiterated their support for Jordan and understanding of the Kingdom's stands and policies.

He said his talks in Germany and France focussed on the Middle East peace process and its economic dimensions and the region's needs, particularly with regards to burdens shouldered by Jordan.

He said that he was left with the impression that things were going the right way.

Commenting on a recent address by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and the possibility of achieving progress in the peace process, King Hussein said: "We all started from the same point and there is full commitment by all parties to reach the aspired peace. We hope that this is true. For us, the negotiations are ongoing and their results are good."

The King said he welcomed any gestures by the Arab Gulf states to develop



His Majesty King Hussein, who returned home by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad and Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al the United Kingdom, is received upon arrival Hussein (Petra photo)

relations with Jordan, voicing hope that Arab-Arab relations would always remain based on the principles of brotherly relations and mutual respect.

During his two-week trip, King Hussein met German President Norman Herzog and Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Bonn and French President Francois Mitterrand and Premier Edouard Balladur in Paris. Accompanied by Her

Majesty Queen Noor the King made a sightseeing tour of Berlin.

The King's discussions covered the Jordanian economic situation, the Palestine refugees question and progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations.

The King reviewed with the German and French leaders the Kingdom's efforts to attain a lasting peace and endeavours to

regain its occupied territory and water rights.

Emphasising the need for progress to be achieved on all Arab-Israeli tracks, the King underlined the French and German roles in ensuring the stability and peace in the Middle East region.

The King was assured of French and German support for Jordan's efforts and heard pledges of continued economic assistance to the Kingdom.

Rabin urges party support on Syria

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin urged his Labour Party on Monday to back his initiative or risk bringing down the government and the peace process, members of Knesset (Parliament) said.

Mr. Rabin rounded on Mr. Avigdor Kahalani, who has decided to put a bill to parliament requiring a 70 per cent majority vote in the house and a 65 per cent majority in a national referendum for Israel to hand back any substantial area of the Golan Heights.

"This initiative is a right-wing conspiracy to try to bring down the government," Mr. Rabin charged at a parliamentary party meeting, nine MP, present told reporters.

"The true motive is political: To trip up the government and to torpedo the peace process with the Syrians."

Mr. Rabin regretted that Mr. Kahalani and others had taken the decision.

"There has never been a demand to have two-thirds of the vote. Why was such an initiative not raised during the negotiations on the Sinai?" Mr. Rabin asked.

After Mr. Rabin's speech seven M.P.s who had announced support for Mr. Kahalani backed out and threw their weight behind Mr. Rabin, who has pledged to hold a referendum if a large part of the Golan Heights is to be returned to

Syria in exchange for peace.

A debate on Mr. Rabin's offer to Syria of a "marginal" withdrawal on the strategic plateau over three years to allow for normalisation is scheduled in parliament on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, General Uri Saguy, the head of Israeli military intelligence, said negotiations with Syria would soon make progress.

"The talks will soon register progress because Israel and Syria have reached the conclusion that there is no other alternative," he said.

"It appeared in President (Hafez Al) Assad's speech to parliament on Saturday in Damascus that Syria will do all it can to find a solution."

"Assad understands the meaning of peace. He knows that he has to have normal relations and detailed security arrangements," Gen. Saguy said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres hailed Mr. Assad's speech as a "declaration of peace" and called for a new approach to find an accord with Syria.

"In previous times we used to hear declarations of war," Mr. Peres said Sunday. "The solution does not lie in the Israeli or Syrian position, but in a third position which should be agreed."

Mr. Assad said Syria was "aware of the objective requirements of peace and is ready to conform to the requirements on which an accord will be based."

Yemeni president in Oman to boost ties

MUSCAT (AP) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh held talks Monday with Sultan Qaboos seeking to improve relations with neighbouring countries that had sympathised with southern secessionists during Yemen's recent civil war.

The two also spoke about bolstering bilateral relations. It was President Saleh's first trip abroad since the end of the conflict in his Arabian country July 7.

"Scopes for bilateral cooperation between the two countries were discussed, as well as means of bolstering relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Yemen in a manner leading to higher standards and prosperity of the two countries," the official Oman News Agency reported.

The talks in the southern Arabian Sea city of Salalah, 1,600 kilometres south of Muscat, were attended by Oman's deputy premier for economic and financial affairs, Qais Al Zawawi, and the minister of state for foreign affairs, Youssef Ben Alawi, among other officials, the agency reported.

It gave no details of the talks and did not mention Yemen's reported quest for Omani mediation to improve relations with other Gulf states.

Oman is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) alliance which includes Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

With the exception of Qatar, GCC states sympathised with Yemen's southern secessionists who challenged Mr. Saleh's leadership and waged a nine-week civil war before being defeated by government forces.

Oman gave refuge to Ali Salem Al Beidh, the leader of Yemen's secessionists. But it maintained good relations with Yemen and when the war ended, sent an envoy to Mr. Saleh to report that it had secured a pledge from Mr. Beidh to give up politics.

Diplomats said Sultan Qaboos had been expected during Mr. Saleh's visit to ask the Yemeni leader to pardon his rival.

But Mr. Saleh quashed hopes for any sort of conciliatory action in his arrival statement when he condemned "the insurgency that the treacherous secessionists had set aflame."

Mr. Saleh has pardoned southern fighters, but insists on trying Mr. Beidh and 15 aides, all of them now in exile, for treason and war crimes.

Mr. Beidh had been Mr. Saleh's vice president from 1990, when conservative North Yemen and socialist South Yemen merged, until the war. But he declared secession from the north during the war.

Sultan Qaboos and top political and military aides accorded Mr. Saleh a ceremonial reception at Salalah airport upon his arrival Monday

Arafat sees 'unimagined progress' year after deal

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat voiced growing optimism Monday on the eve of the first anniversary of the signing of the self-rule accord, saying progress was better than anyone could have imagined.

"It is true that nobody could imagine that we would have this progress," he told reporters at the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) headquarters.

"No doubt there are some problems but they are part of life and we cannot imagine that the peace of the brave can go smoothly without any problem."

"But it needs from us all efforts and sacrifices for the sake of our peoples, our new generations and our children."

"We are sure that through all this cooperation we will achieve more," he added after his first meeting with Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

Mr. Arafat looked forward to a "comprehensive and lasting peace" and said the meeting with Mr. Shohat showed "we are collaborating in goodwill and determination."

Just a month ago Mr. Arafat had complained that Israel was driving him to "despair" with repeated humiliations.

But he has since won wider support from the World Bank and last week received another \$30 million in aid with the promise of much more to come, despite a delay until Tuesday of an international donors meeting.

Mr. Shohat also sounded pleased ahead of the Sept. 13 anniversary of the signing in Washington of the declaration of principles on autonomy.

"One can look back a year ago and say we didn't do enough, but on the other hand we can say, 'look what was done.' And I believe that a lot has been done."

The minister said Israel had already transferred about \$15 million to the Palestinians from import and customs duties levied on goods bound for the Gaza Strip.

"We are going to continue doing it. We know that there

is a need for this money here and we know that we want the economy in Gaza and Jericho to be a success," said Mr. Shohat.

At a later press conference, Mr. Arafat was asked if, a year on, he felt more optimistic.

"No doubt," he replied. "There are many obstacles, but the peace of the brave has to face all these obstacles and together we shall overcome them."

He looked forward to "another successful meeting with the donors" in Oslo on Tuesday where he would also meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres for celebrations to mark the anniversary.

However, Mr. Arafat added delays in receiving money from the donors would endanger autonomy. "Not only the autonomy, it will reflect negatively on the whole peace process, in the whole area."

A senior Israeli official warned Sunday Palestinian self-rule could collapse if international donors do not speed up funding for Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Foreign ministry director-general Uri Savir told reporters: "If in the next six months the funds pledged for autonomy do not reach the (Palestinian) police force and administration it will collapse."

Mr. Savir said the PNA needed \$150 million up to the end of 1994 for development projects and improving the Palestinians' standard of living.

The money would "immediately create jobs," he said, estimating that a project to build homes in Gaza City would provide work for 12,000 people.

Donor countries have pledged \$720 million for 1994. Last week the World Bank signed an accord in Gaza City to unblock \$30 million — part of \$128 million pledged by the bank to back self-rule.

But the PLO has accused donors of delaying the release of funds and renegeing on their pledges.

Mr. Savir stressed that the Palestinians needed to set up

administrative and budgetary systems to handle the funds. The Palestinian authority had already collected \$3.2 million in taxes, he said.

Activists barred

Israel is refusing to allow 16 PLO military and intelligence officers into autonomous Palestinian territories, citing their past involvement in attacks against Israelis, a Palestinian official said Monday.

The 16 belong to Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction. They also are members of the Palestinian National Council, said Abbas Zaki, a leading Fatah official.

Mr. Arafat is trying to convene the 480-seat council in Gaza to change clauses in the PLO charter that call for the destruction of Israel. Mr. Arafat pledged to remove the offending references under the self-rule accord.

Mr. Zaki told the Associated Press in Amman that Israel's refusal to allow the 16 men into the autonomous territories showed that Israel "lacked credibility and seriousness" in the peace process.

"Israelis say that they can't cross because of their past," he said. "What about (Major General) Amnon Shahak and other Israeli leaders who are negotiating peace with the PLO?" asked Mr. Zaki.

"What about their terrorist acts against the Palestinian people?"

The PLO says Gen. Shahak, Israel's deputy chief of staff and the head of Israel's peace negotiations with the Palestinians, masterminded the assassination of deputy PLO commander Khalil Al Wazir in April 1988. Wazir was killed in a commando raid on his residence in Tunis, and Gen. Shahak was then Israel's military intelligence chief.

Gen. Shahak also reportedly led Israeli commandos who slipped into Beirut in 1973 and assassinated three top PLO leaders — Kamal Nasser, Kamal Adwan and Abu Youssef Najjar.

'No let-up in violations of human rights'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Human rights violations have not only continued against Palestinians despite the autonomy agreement but been extended to Israeli suspects as well, a leading rights group reported Monday.

The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories produced a damning study of Israeli practices to coincide with Tuesday's first anniversary of the signing of the declaration of principles for self-rule.

"Instead of ceasing to use illegal measures against the Palestinian population, it appears that the authorities have expanded them to Israeli civilians as well," the centre said but gave no numbers.

These included: Torture of Israelis suspected of selling arms; Detention without trial of suspected extremist settlers;

Excessive force against Israeli demonstrators; Israel has cracked down on extreme right-wing Jews since the February mosque massacre in Hebron. Seven suspects have been arrested in the last week over the murder of up to five Palestinians.

The more than one million Palestinians still living in areas under Israeli control were subjected to a broad range of violations from "unnecessary lethal use of arms" and "unacceptable methods of interrogation" to arbitrary restrictions on movement, severe harassment and violent searches.

From the Sept. 13 signing ceremony in Washington to the end of August, the centre said Israeli security forces killed 125 Palestinians and Israeli civilians another 46, including 29 in the Hebron massacre.

That represented 30 per cent fewer killed than for the same period of the previous year.

Compromises resolve Cairo forum disputes

CAIRO (Agencies) — Delegates at the U.N. population conference agreed on the wording of sexual issues in their final report Monday and decided that migrants should not have an automatic right to family reunification.

The agreements wrapped up the two remaining contentious issues a day before the conference ends Tuesday (see page 12). The main negotiating committee informally approved compromise wording and was to meet later in formal session.

The issue of "reproductive rights and reproductive health" had been second only to abortion in divisiveness and took 28 hours of negotiations to resolve. The text says reproductive health implies

that "people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life."

In an effort to respond to concerns by the Vatican and some Catholic countries, the phrase "fertility regulation" — which they consider a code for abortion — was changed to "regulation of fertility."

Monsignor Peter Elliot said that "fertility regulation has been defined by the World Health Organisation in such a way that it does include abortion and as a technical term it is unacceptable, not only to the Holy See, but to other nations."

The Vatican had proposed "regulating fertility."

The agreed texts will be presented to a final plenary session on Tuesday, which is expected to adopt a program-

me of action to curb the world's population explosion over the next 20 years.

The family reunification issue, which divided rich and poor nations, was the last to be hammered out.

The compromise was found after the United States, backed by Canada, Austria and Australia, refused to accept the "right" of family reunification for foreign workers.

Some 35 developing countries, mostly from African and Latin America, had demanded that the "right" be included in the conference's action plan rather than "principles" as proposed by Western states.

"All governments, particularly those of receiving coun-

tries, must recognise the vital importance of family reunification and promote its integration into their national legislation in order to ensure the protection of the unity of the families of documented migrants," under the compromise.

The final compromise also referred to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and all other recognised human rights instruments, noted German delegate Klaus Rosen.

European officials had earlier said the European Union would grant the "right" to family reunification which appears in chapter 10 of the 113-page action plan, provided it was in accordance with national law.

Iran wants France to 'stop supporting' Algerian regime

PARIS (AFP) — The president of Iran urged France in an interview published here on Monday to "stop supporting" Algeria's army-backed regime, which he said would be swept away like the Shah of Iran was in 1979.

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told Le Figaro daily that he "condemned" all manner of violence in Algeria. But he said France should "stop supporting" the Algerian government.

He accused France of "doing for the Algerian government what the United States did for the government of the Shah" who was overthrown in January 1979 in a revolution fuelled by Islamic fundamentalists.

"At present the Algerian government is fighting against its own people as the Shah's government did against us. It will meet the same fate," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

The Iranian leader condemned the murder of French citizens in Algeria and the killing by Islamic militants of intellectuals, journalists and teachers. "We oppose these massacres in Algeria by both sides, the Islamic militants and the others," he said.

The Algerian regime has been fighting an armed uprising by Islamic militants since the cancellation in 1992 by an army-backed junta of elections to the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front was forecast to win.

On Salman Rushdie, the British author sentenced to death for "blasphemy" by Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini over his book "The Satanic Verses," Mr. Rafsanjani said that under Islamic law the writer's life was still threatened.

"There can be no question of pardon because the fatwa (religious decree) was pronounced against him. No one can go back on it. Anyway it is not in the interest of the West to shield someone who has outraged one billion Muslims," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

On the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians, Mr. Rafsanjani said the Palestinians must "be able to return" to their homes and "after that, if there's still room for the Jews then they can stay."

"The state of Israel is illeg-

al, just as the presence of the Nazis was in France," Mr. Rafsanjani said, adding that the Jews should "go back where they came from" that is "mainly from Russia."

Asked to comment on the trial set for Nov. 2 of three Iranians accused of murdering the Shah's last Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar outside Paris in 1981, Mr. Rafsanjani said he was confident provided politics were kept out of the trial.

If "the case is not politicised and if judicial rules and principles are respected, we can be sure the verdict will be in our favour," Le Figaro quoted him as saying.

Mr. Rafsanjani said the three Iranians accused of killing Bakhtiar and his secretary on Aug. 6, 1981 in Paris suburb of Suresnes had been "close" to Bakhtiar before "in-fighting" drove them apart.

The Iranian leader denied that Iran supported "terrorism" and accused "western governments of bringing accusations without proof."

He said Iran wanted "relations of trust with everybody except with the governments of three countries," namely the United States, Israel and Egypt, which he said "was the first to sow discord over the Palestinian problem."

French authorities reacted to Mr. Rafsanjani's statement by saying it would not help relations between the two countries.

"The least we can say is that it won't facilitate dialogue with Iran," foreign ministry spokesman Richard Duche said, adding that Paris would raise the issue with authorities in Tehran.

FLN official wounded

A top official in Algeria's former sole ruling party, the National Liberation Front (FLN), has been shot and wounded at Berrahal near the eastern town of Annaba, the security services said Monday.

Himda Mansri a member of the central committee of the FLN, was shot Tuesday as he was sitting with friends in a cafe, the security services said, but they did not say who carried out the attack.

In the past two years, dozens of local FLN officials and activists have been killed



GAZA TRIAL: Supporters of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas demonstrate in front of a Palestinian court building in the Gaza Strip demanding the death penalty for

three suspects on trial for killing a Palestinian suspected of collaborating with the Israeli occupation authorities (AFP photo)

Rabbani forces confirm setback

JABAL-US-SERAJ, Afghanistan (R) — Forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani confirmed on Sunday they had lost the strategic northern town of Khenjan three days ago but they were fighting their opponents near it.

Jets of the rival forces bombed each other's positions on Sunday morning on both sides of the frontline, which is few kilometres south of Khenjan, witnesses said.

Anti-Rabbani forces led by Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum captured Khenjan on Thursday and said they had advanced some 20 kilometres south from where their heavy artillery could target the major presidential garrison of Jabal-us-Seraj.

"The front is a few kilometres south of Khenjan," Commander Panah of the presidential forces said. On a mountainside, with some of his men around him, Panah was busy talking to his forces nearer the front on a walkie talkie.

Suddenly there was large explosion, and then five more in quick succession as rockets

fired by the opposition forces landed near the main road less than 300 metres away.

As his forces replied with rockets, Panah confirmed the opposition forces had taken Khenjan on Thursday.

Khenjan connects Kabul with a new road opened by Mr. Rabbani's forces to bring goods through Sher Khan Bandar port on the northern border from Central Asia thus avoiding opposition-held territory. This road is now cut off from Mr. Rabbani's forces.

The fighting at the front itself has been fierce, with heavy exchanges of shelling, mortars and rocket fire and also assault rifles, according to Panah's men.

They said jets of both sides had dropped bombs on each other's positions earlier in the day. Soon after, they spoke, one of Gen. Dostum's jets passed overhead and dropped another bomb behind nearby hills.

One fair haired soldier who appeared near the front said: "I am from Ukraine, and I changed sides from the Soviet forces about nine years ago."

"I am now a Muslim and have married an Afghan girl," he said without giving

his name. He is fighting with Mr. Rabbani's forces.

The man was one of several fighting on both sides who stayed on after their capture by guerrillas during the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan.

On the road from the south, several more of Mr. Rabbani's tanks could be seen transported up to the front on heavy lorries, but there was otherwise little activity south of Salang Tunnel.

The opposition coordinating council SCCIRA said in a communiqué issued in neighbouring Pakistan on Saturday that its forces had made a 25-kilometre advance towards the Salang Tunnel after capturing Khenjan Valley.

"With this spectacular advance, four highways of the country come under the control of the SCCIRA," it said.

The present round of fighting between pro-Rabbani forces and those of the opposition began on Jan. 1. About 11,500 people have been killed in factional fighting since guerrillas took over control of Afghanistan from the Communist government in 1992.

PLO men operate in Jerusalem, court told

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinian security agents operate illegally in Jerusalem, an Israeli court heard during recent hearings for three bodyguards of the Jericho security chief.

Police, who submitted classified information to the Jerusalem magistrate's court on Sunday and Monday, said officially for the first time that the Palestinian forces were carrying out operations beyond the self-rule areas of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

The government insists Palestinian agents are restricted to the autonomous zones, although numerous press reports have alleged they roam across the West Bank.

Judge Miriam Mizrahi said the government's attitude to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) security activity outside Gaza and Jericho was not clear.

Cultural life begins to blossom in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Cultural life is beginning to blossom again in the Gaza Strip as Palestinians emerge from years of anxiety and Israeli occupation with a growing thirst for theatre and art.

As Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) prepare to celebrate on Tuesday the first anniversary of the signing of their declaration of principle in Washington, the Strip is rediscovering the pleasures of cultural pursuits.

"People in Gaza need a cultural change," said Mohammad Naja, the director of the Strip's only cultural complex, the Rashad Shawwa centre.

During the intifada against Israeli rule, which began in December 1987, all entertainment was virtually banned on the orders of the insurrection's leadership. Even weddings had to be modest and lacking in any ostentation.

The 800,000 Gazans were also subjected to a nightly curfew imposed by the Israeli army, and public singing was limited to sad songs such as at funerals.

But since the May 4 autonomy accord launching Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho cultural life has begun to flourish again.

At the Rashad Shawwa centre there are activities "daily until 11:00 p.m." and it is still not enough to meet the demand, Mr. Naja said.

"We reopened our 1,000-seat theatre two months ago, but we still cannot satisfy all those coming here to make up for years of deprivation."

"We need cinemas, cultural and arts centres to be spread all over Gaza," he added.

Since autonomy began Gaza hotels have been attracting large audiences for

concerts by Arab-Israeli singers.

A traditional folk group from East Jerusalem, Sabrin, has toured the Strip, and the centre is to hold a Spanish week this month with a guesting Spanish dance group.

It is also currently hosting an exhibition of Islamic calligraphy from the 15th and 16th centuries, organised in cooperation with the British Council.

Palestinian radio has begun to broadcast a range of programmes from music to news eight hours a day, while Palestinian television is showing test programmes and is due to open officially soon.

Books and theatre have also been given a new focus, switching away from the former central theme of the fight against Israel to the problems of self-rule.

The first play to be shown in Gaza after autonomy, entitled "In Spite of You Merchant," criticised corruption and called on the governing Palestinian National Authority to check favoritism and incompetence.

"Before, all our plays had only one aim, resisting occupation. Today we confront social and economic problems," said actor Said Al Bitar.

He is currently rehearsing a play called "Leave it to God's Care" (Khaliba ab Allah) to be performed in a hall belonging to the Association of Young Christians in Gaza.

The play is directed by Salah Kaddoumi, who is turned from a 27-year exile when self-rule was implemented.

There is a wealth of talent on the Strip, according to Mr. Kaddoumi, but it needs to be helped and trained if Palestinians want "to meet the challenge and breathe new life into their theatre."

Thai police chief denies charge in Saudi gems case

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thailand's national police chief has denied allegations he ordered the kidnapping of the wife of a key witness in a case involving the theft of nearly 20 million dollars worth of Saudi gems.

"I never spoke or ordered such a thing," Chief Pratip Santiprabhob told reporters. "It's not true and I'll take legal action against anyone who damages my reputation."

He vowed the murder investigation would continue and "I guarantee there will be arrests to the very roots."

The allegations were made by one of his assistants who claimed Pratip had ordered the kidnapping of Darawadee Sritanakorn in order to push the four-year-old investigation of the missing jewels to a conclusion.

The Thai public has been bombarded in recent weeks with stunning new developments in the case which began in 1989.

That year, a Thai janitor stole \$20 million in jewels from a Saudi prince in Riyadh, smuggling the loot back here.

Thai police caught the thief in 1990 and recovered nearly all the jewelry, but only a fraction of the gems were returned and much of that was fake.

The investigation stagnated for years, souring Thai-Saudi relations and costing Bangkok billions of dollars in remittances from Thai labourers in Saudi Arabia,

whose number were cut by Riyadh from 250,000 to some 20,000.

Darawadee, the wife of a key witness in the case, Sand Sritanakorn, was found dead with her 14-year-old son in a luxury car August 1.

In a letter published by The Nation daily Monday, Lieutenant-General Sophon Sawikamin alleged "Police General Pratip ordered... to abduct Santi's wife, Darawadee, immediately and detain her," to force Santi to return or reveal the location of the missing gems.

Sen. Sophon addressed a letter and 17 additional demands to Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai.

Sen. Sophon has been accused of involvement in the murders of Darawadee and the boy, Seri. But he claimed another assistant had been responsible.

Sunday, police made an appeal to surrender to two fugitives implicated in the murders of Darawadee and Seri, warning them their lives were in jeopardy.

"It's very dangerous to stay out there," as the mastermind behind the murders would try to "silence them," Major-General Wannarat Kajarak was quoted as saying in The Nation.

One of them turned himself in to police late Sunday, while the other remained at large Monday.

A total of nine people have been implicated in the murders.

Egyptian women tackle marriage, divorce suffering

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuter

CAIRO — Women in Egypt are obsessed with marrying but when they do, many soon regret it. And those championing their cause say that in marriage and in divorce they suffer in a patriarchal society.

Patriarchal women activists, working on the sidelines of a U.N. population conference, are proposing a marriage contract that would give women more rights and ends years of discrimination.

The Egyptian gender and equality and women's empowerment committee says many women in Egypt are brought up with one goal in life, to become wives.

For them, marriage is the only legal avenue to have

sex and to attain status. But they gain little security and many end up frustrated and often physically abused with no recourse to justice under what the activists say are outdated laws.

The U.N. population conference, with its focus on sex and abortion issues, has stirred up the question of the woman's position, marriage and divorce.

"Men still treat women as their personal property," said activist Hoda Al Sadda.

"Women in Egypt are insecure in marriage and divorce. Once they are divorced, they are out on the streets, with no money or shelter," she said. "There is no law that protects the woman's rights and obliges the husband to pay alimony."

The committee, set up for the U.N. conference,

this week put a 14-point charter to the international non-governmental organisations working with the conference.

One main point is a legal demand that a husband pay a stipulated amount of alimony in cases of divorce. Another is to ensure a man notifies his bride or wife in cases of polygamy.

The committee also wants a woman to have the right to divorce if the husband remarries without her permission, the right to seek a divorce whenever she wishes, and the right to work or travel without having to seek her husband's permission.

The committee is pushing for a change to say that a husband who divorces his wife without provocation after more than 15 years of marriage must give up the family home even if her

children are no longer in her custody. He should also provide financial compensation for divorcing her.

Recognising that some wives might act unreasonably, the committee suggests that where such women ask for divorce without valid reasons they would forfeit the right to alimony.

Ms. Sadda said that physical or psychological abuse, which research showed was common among the poor and the middle-class, was not considered grounds for divorce in Egypt.

"The court does not consider abuse as sufficient grounds for divorce. Judges rule for the woman if she shows signs of wounds... caused by the husband. She has to have an eye gouged to get it," she added.

The Egyptian government, struggling to keep pace with a population that has doubled in 30 years to nearly 59 million, has not amended its social codes and still refers to archaic theological teachings, the committee women say.

Ms. Sadda gave as an example the penal code on adultery, under which she said a married woman found committing adultery faced a minimum of two years in jail.

A husband could have sex with other women without fear of punishment. Only if he was caught actually in the conjugal bed having sex with another woman was he considered an adulterer. The punishment for this is six months in detention.

Egyptian women are often victims of "crimes of

honour." If a husband finds his wife sleeping with another man and kills her, he gets a suspended sentence. If a woman kills her husband for the same reason, she gets a maximum penalty, Ms. Sadda said.

"The aim (of the proposals) is to spread awareness and to gradually develop the ageing personal status law. We know it is very difficult to make a sudden amendment of this law... religious people will say it is against religion," said Sarah Loza, head of the committee.

"Legal measures must be introduced to protect women."

"Education does not make people more progressive..." Ms. Sadda said. "Many educated (men) behave at home like ignorant tyrants."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fakher Belbeisi 663412
Dr. Khalidoun Asfour 666873
Dr. Yousef Nasr 751144
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 730111
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637053
Nasrallah pharmacy 636772
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nasrallah pharmacy 636772
Nasr pharmacy 647652

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Khalil 273099
Alquds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Zaid Jaiton (—)
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 696390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 608800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 697467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information 121
(directory assistance)
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Reception 651101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Company 636381
Ri Flight information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381/3/2
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6

Akshel Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mabes, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Munasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ain, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 686101
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983362
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hana Modern Hospital (09)999990
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Great Catholic Hospital (02)727275
Ibn Al-Hafes Hospital (02)347111
Princess Haya Hospital (02)344111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:00 Damascus (RJ)
06:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:00 Dhahran (RJ)
10:15 Muscat, Agaba (RJ)
10:35 Muscat, Dhahran (RJ)
10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:25 London (RJ)
17:50 Cairo (RJ)
17:55 Frankfurt (RJ)
20:30 Tunis (add) (RJ)
21:15 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
09:35 Cairo (MS)
12:30 Muscat, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
17:30 Rome (AZ)
18:20 Paris, Beirut (AF)
19:30 Kiev (UL)

21:00 Aden (DY)
21:15 Beirut (ME)
22:25 Amsterdam (KL)
06:30 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 Agaba (RJ)
09:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00 Tunis (add) (RJ)
12:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Paris (AF)
12:35 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
13:55 Dhahran (RJ)
14:30 London (RJ)
15:20 Damascus (AZ)
21:00 Larnaca (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
23:50 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
23:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Beirut (add) (ME)
10:30 Larnaca, Rome (AZ)
10:35 Cairo (MS)
12:30 Vienna (OS)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (GF)
15:20 Riyadh (SV)
18:20 Damascus (AZ)
20:30 Kiev (UL)
22:00 Aden (DY)
06:30 Amsterdam (KL)

01:30 Bucharest (RO)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 620/400
Banana 600
Cabbage (Mukammal) 500
Carrot 300/200
Cauliflower 240/180
Cucumber (large) 180/100
Cucumber (small) 320/240
Eggplant 280/200
Garlic 900/700
Grapes 480/300
Grapes (Hilwan) 850/500
Guava 500/300
Lemon 270/180
Marrow (large) 200/120
Marrow (small) 380/240
Mushrooms 160/80
Onion (dry) 300/200
Pepper (hot) 300/200
Pepper (sweet) 340/240
Potato 370/240
Pomegranate 360/280
Spinach 320/200
Tomato 120/80
String beans 650/500
Watermelon 200/100



VISITING CDD: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Monday visited the Civil Defence Department (CDD) where he was received by Director General Ali Al Ghoul, his assistants, the Inspector General and senior CDD officers. Prince Mohammad was briefed by Gen. Ghoul on the department's duties. At the end of the visit, the Prince was familiarised with equipment and machinery used by the CDD. Prince Mohammad also visited Ali Hussein Ben Ali Brigade and was briefed on duties assigned to it (Petra photo)

Man dies from motorcycle accident

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 24-year-old man Sunday was killed and another person was listed in critical condition following a motorcycle accident on the Jabbar road near Ramtha, Public Security Department (PSD) reports said.

According to the report, Sami K., who was driving without a motorcycle licence, and a 23-year-old man, who was not identified, were riding a motorcycle towards Ramtha without the vehicle's lights turned on. At the same time a trailer was coming from the other direction, the report said.

The trailer driver, who was also not identified in the report, told police that a car coming from the same direction as the motorcycle had its high beams on, and he was unable to see the motorcycle and the two vehicles met head on.

Both Sami and the other youth were rushed to a nearby hospital. Sami died shortly after arriving, while the other victim was listed in critical condition, hospital sources said.

Police said that the area where the accident occurred has witnessed similar tragic motorcycle accidents in the past.

The PSD report said that most victims involved in the accidents were young men in their 20s who were driving without licences.

The Traffic Department discontinued issuing motorcycle licences 15 years ago because of the high number of fatal accidents involving youth.

on the roof of his home while two separate weddings were being celebrated nearby.

The uncle said that in both weddings people were shooting live bullets in celebration.

Amer is the fourth victim in two months to die of gunshot wounds in festive firing cases. The PSD report said that during the same period, at least 30 people were injured in similar incidents.

Meanwhile, PSD reports said that in the past 48 hours, 67 road accidents occurred in different parts of the Kingdom, causing the death of two people and injury to 25 others.

The report said that last month, 2,422 road accidents occurred, claiming the lives of 36 people and injuring 950.

The number of road accidents in August rose by 196 over the previous month, the report said.

'Jordan to attend 4-party talks on refugees with unchanged approach'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will be attending a meeting on Palestinian refugees along with Israel, Egypt and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) of Gaza and Jericho, but the Kingdom's basic approach to the problem of refugees remains unchanged, an official source said Monday.

The source said Jordan dropped its initial reservations over the meeting, which was called for in the Oslo accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), because of its keen interest in "attending any meeting that concerns displaced people and refugees and attended by Israel."

The source said there has been no change in the Jordanian stand that the right of the refugees and displaced people should be addressed in full and that the Kingdom's participation in the four-party meeting would come with no prejudice to the individual rights of the refugees and displaced people to return to their homes or receive compensation.

Earlier, officials said Jordan was reluctant to attend the meeting, for which no date has yet been set, since the very concept of such a gathering was rejected by the Kingdom.

"How can Jordan be party to a meeting which was decided upon by two others with no consultations with Jordan?" asked one official, referring to the secret negotiations that led to the Oslo agreement, which was transformed into the Israel-PLO autonomy accord when it was formally signed in Washington on Sept. 13, 1993.

"To say that Israel and the Palestinians have decided to invite Jordan for discussions on an issue that directly concerns Jordan without consulting us first was an infringement of Jordan's sovereign rights," said the source. "I cannot speak on behalf of Egypt, but the situation as we see it was the same with Egypt."

"However, we have decided to attend the meeting simply because the issue of the refugees and displaced persons is on the bilateral track of Jordanian-Israeli negotiations and the multilateral phase of the peace process in addition to the consideration that we are interested in attending any meeting on Palestinian refugees and displaced persons," added the source.

Jordan is awaiting the arrival of a PLO team for discussions and coordination ahead of the meeting.

"We hope to achieve coordination at least in terms of unification of data," said the source, noting that "it will be ridiculous if the Palestinians present different figures than Jordan while negotiating the issue with the Israelis."

The Egyptian government has already made significant progress in collecting data on Palestinian refugees and displaced persons carrying Egyptian documents ahead of the meeting.

The ongoing Jordanian-Israeli negotiations do not include the issue of refugees as an immediate item, but the subject is very much in the Jordanian mind, said the source, explaining that the exclusion of the issue from immediate negotiations with Israel did not mean that Jordan had abandoned it.

"How can we abandon an issue which is of prime importance and concern to us?" asked the source.

One of the demands of Jordan in the bilateral track of discussions with Israel on the issue of refugees and displaced persons in Jordanian territory. This demand is a purely Jordanian-Israeli matter on a government-to-government level with no bearing on the right of the refugees and displaced persons to return home or receive compensation, officials have explained.

"After all Jordan shouldering the burden of refugees came as a result of developments which were no result of Jordanian actions," according to a senior official.

"It is only fair and logical that Israel, which brought the burden to bear upon Jordan, should compensate Jordan for having to bear the costs and responsibilities for the refugees and displaced persons."

The source expected "tough and long" negotiations with Israel on the issue of refugees and displaced persons.

"It won't be easy," said the source. "We expect Israel to come up with all kinds of arguments and counter-arguments and the stalling tactics that we have now grown to be very familiar with."

Asked what Jordan's figures were on refugees and displaced persons, the source said: "There are no precise figures to the last man, woman or child. But we estimate that there are one million plus refugees and more than 800,000 displaced persons under Jordan's care."

PLO officials have not provided any specific figure on the number of refugees, but estimate the number of displaced persons at 875,000 to 900,000, with the bulk of them living in Jordan.

In reply to a question on reports that Iraq was identified as one of the recipients of Palestinian refugees from 1948 living in Lebanon as part of a Middle Eastern peace package, the source said: "Jordan does not discuss the fate of refugees living in other countries. It is concerned only with those who are in its territory."

"In any event," said the source, "Jordan is not aware of any such proposals (involving Iraq). But that may not mean that there is no such proposal either."

Majali urges ECC to help in drafting economic plans

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday urged the Economic Consultative Council (ECC) to contribute to drawing up economic plans for the country and help decision makers take the appropriate resolutions.

Addressing an ECC meeting, Dr. Majali said that the private sector should play a basic and vital role in the formation of economic plans and in their implementation.

The council, which meets periodically upon the request of the prime minister, groups representatives of the private and public sectors who discuss issues referred to them by the government.

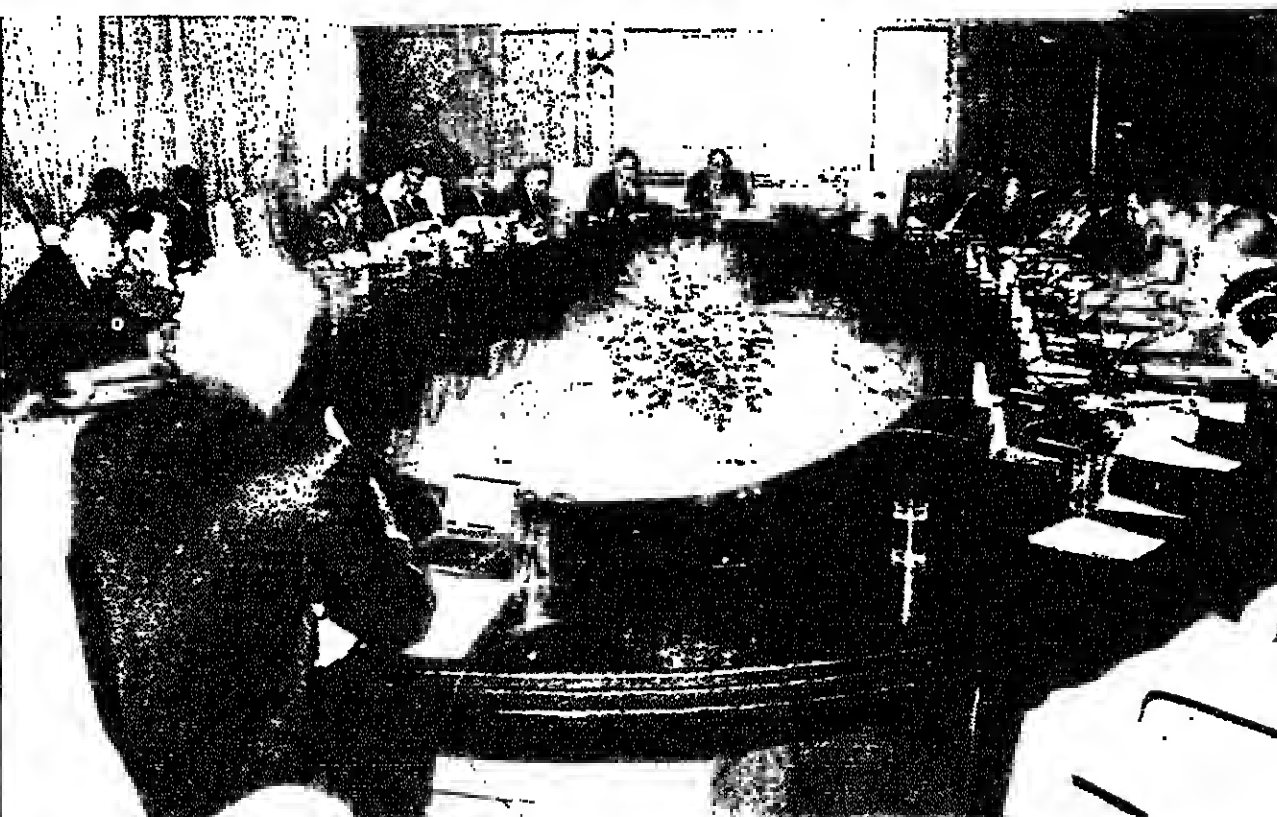
A statement after the meeting said the ECC members exchanged views about the best way of serving national interests in light of developments in the Middle East and progress achieved in the peace process.

They also discussed government steps to modernise and improve public administration and upgrade laws and legislation governing economic activities.

ECC members reviewed ideas and steps that could be taken in the immediate future to ensure successful cooperation at the regional level and safeguard the interests of various sectors, according to the statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

It also said that the council members reviewed ideas for modernising the management of the economy and matters related to foreign debt, economic growth rates, unemployment, inflation and investments.

The council, formed on June 20, groups ministers, bank managers, prominent business people, representatives of the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Jordanian Businessmen's Association, universities, the labour and farmers, federation and several professional associations.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday holds a meeting with members of the Economic Consultative Council (Petra photo)



STUDYING THE STARS: Adel Mahasneh, dean of the University of Jordan's Faculty of Science, Monday opens the first conference on space science and astronomy, at the university. Organised by the physics department, the conference is attended by delegates from Arab countries, Iran, the U.S., Italy and France.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Summer bridge-crossing offices to close

AMMAN (Petra) — All temporary offices opened by the Public Security Department (PSD) to regulate travel to the occupied West Bank via the King Hussein Bridge over the summer will be closed as of Saturday, Sept. 17, according to a PSD announcement Monday. The statement said that travellers to the West Bank should proceed directly to the bridge as there is no longer a need to register as required during the summer because of the large number of visitors.

Minister, envoy discuss health aid to Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Bataineh Monday discussed with the Yemeni

Ambassador to Jordan arrangements for a Jordanian medical team to travel to Yemen and offer medical services there. The delegation, which comprises specialists in different medical fields, is due to leave for Sanaa in the coming few days.

ICRC chiefs meet with minister

AMMAN (Petra) — The newly-appointed head of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) office in Amman Yves Giovannoni and outgoing head Marco Sassoli Monday called on Minister of State Mohammad Thweh and discussed Red Cross activities in Jordan. The minister requested that ICRC pursue efforts to ensure that Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails receive humane treatment. Mr. Sassoli said that progress in the peace process was reflected positively on the treatment of these detainees.

6,200 tonnes of fuel saved since April 1

AMMAN (J.T.) — By the time Jordan switches over to winter time on Friday, Sept. 16, 1994, the country will have saved an estimated 6,200 tonnes of fuel valued at JD 400,000 from April 1 this year, according to Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary General Abdul Wahab Zoubi.

Between April 1 and Sept. 15 Jordanians reduced electricity consumption by an estimated one hour per day for a total of 175 hours in domestic and industrial use,

helping to cut down on energy consumption, said Mr. Zoubi in a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He estimated the total savings to be in the vicinity of 0.6 per cent of the annual electricity consumption in the Kingdom.

The time change adopted for the ninth consecutive year, is aimed at conserving energy, an objective which the government has been trying to achieve through different means, said Mr. Zoubi.

Expert to lecture on gifted students

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jubilee School of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), will host American expert Susanne Richert to conduct an intensive course on "Maximising the Potential of Gifted and Talented Students," at the Jubilee School in Abdoun, starting today till Sept. 20, according to a school statement.

The course will deal with different major topics concerning the gifted, including: teacher self-assessment, principles of maximising potential, teaching and learning styles, meeting individual needs, critical and creative thinking, and other topics.

Dr. Richert will be conducting the seven-day course, seven hours daily.

She will present the audience with lectures on the gifted, the audience in turn will give presentations, and she will conduct small group work and introduce new and effective methods in education and administration which are especially designed to identify and develop the as of yet untapped skills and talents of gifted students, said the statement.



Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif Monday opens a meeting on soil surveys and the use of land in Jordan (Petra photo)

'Land use demands balance between needs, nature'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif Monday said the Kingdom urgently needs new legislation to help bring back a natural balance between man's activities and nature, particularly in relation to land use.

Addressing the opening session of a two-day meeting between Jordanian agricultural institutions and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), to discuss land and soil surveys and the use of land in Jordan, Mr. Ben Tarif said the Ministry of Agriculture was taking measures to preserve the soil and ensure the proper and organised use of lands for different purposes in cooperation with organisations in Europe and the Middle East.

Land and soil surveys and studies have already started in several areas in Jordan, a project which is expected to serve development purposes, said the minister.

The past decades witnessed activities that caused deep imbalances between nature and man on the one hand and land soil on the other, with some of the best productive lands near towns and villages used for construction, he said.

Working in cooperation with international organisations, the Ministry of Agriculture has succeeded in preparing soil maps following intensive surveys and studies of land in various areas of the country, said the minister.

Baker Qudah, director of the surveys project, told the meeting that in the last few years forced migrations and the return of large numbers of expatriates to Jordan put pressure on land demands.

Nearly 80 per cent of the existing towns and villages in Jordan, said Mr. Qudah, now stand on agricultural land as a result of the lack of planning.

He said that the loss of agricultural land means the loss of crops and exposing soil to erosion after the loss of vegetation.

Mr. Qudah said that the ministry's land and soil survey project is designed to classify the lands for different usage.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- Chinese film entitled "The Hymn of the Yellow River" (with subtitles in English) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.
- Swedish film entitled "Face To Face" by Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.

PLAY

- Children's play in Arabic entitled "The Festival" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m.

NEWS

- ABC News Highlights and MacNeill-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of oil paintings by Rashad Salim at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.) (Tel. 619861).

- Exhibition of paintings by Syrian artist Walid Qarsifi at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).

- Exhibition of paintings by Yousef Al Badawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

- Exhibition of Chinese paintings and handicrafts at the Royal Cultural Centre.

- Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artists Sa'd Al Ta'i, Talal Issa and Mahdi Al Assadi at Al 'Ain Art Gallery (Tel. 644451).

- "The Diness Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdoun.

- Exhibition entitled "Time-2 Space 1" by Samia Zaron at Darat Al Funnat of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

U.S. aircraft carrier to pick up troops for Haiti invasion

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The nuclear-powered USS Eisenhower is making ready to sail toward the Caribbean as part of an advanced vanguard for the possible invasion of Haiti, military officials said Sunday.

This follows Secretary of State Warren Christopher's assertion that all diplomatic efforts on Haiti have been exhausted.

The 1,040-foot (320 metres) aircraft carrier is due to arrive in Norfolk Monday to load troops and equipment that will be used in any invasion of Haiti, the officials said.

The carrier will serve as a platform mainly for helicopters. It will join the amphibious command ship, the USS Mount Whitney, which will be the command post for the U.S. military if President Bill Clinton resorts to modern-day gunboat diplomacy to oust Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras and other military leaders.

On Sunday, Mr. Christopher said the carrier was not declared an invasion was imminent.

"There comes a time when we have to use military force and President Clinton will explain carefully and fully to the American people what the reasons are and I hope and believe we will have their support at that point, if it comes to that," he said on NBC Television's Meet The Press programme.

For months, the Clinton administration has been threatening to invade Haiti to restore exiled President Jean-

Bertrand Aristide to power. "I would say time is running out," Mr. Christopher said. "I hope they leave. I hope they leave very promptly, but their days are numbered and they will leave one way or another, either soft or hard."

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, said all peaceful means have been tried to get rid of Gen. Cedras and his military partners. "We have tried all diplomatic means, embargoes, cajolery, negotiation and now we are down to, really, a very short period of time, and they better get the message," she said on ABC's This Week With David Brinkley.

Mr. Christopher said the United States would turn over the peacekeeping effort to U.N. forces in "a matter of months," and the U.N. would stay through the November 1995 elections in Haiti. They would be out by early 1996, he said.

Republican leader Bob Dole, who opposes an invasion, said one is in the works. "It's just a question of when and I assume it's going to be in the next two or three weeks," Sen. Dole told CBS's Face The Nation.

He said Defence Secretary William Perry had asked to talk to him about Haiti and they would meet Monday or Tuesday.

In an apparent show of force, a U.S. Navy warship steamed to within about two miles (three kms) of the Haitian capital late Sunday, attracting a crowd of onlook-

ers on shore. Two U.S. patrol boats also came eight miles of the capital, Port-Au-Prince. All three ships headed back out to sea after making their presence felt.

The U.S. embassy spokesman in Port-Au-Prince, Stan Schrage, described it as "just a normal routine training exercise." Nine warships are currently stationed off Haiti, and the Pentagon has activated 12 "ready reserve" ships to carry support equipment.

Mr. Schrage said he expected helicopters to fly over the Haitian capital within days dropping Creole-language fliers, but he didn't know what message they would contain.

Meanwhile, about 150 soldiers from Jamaica, Antigua, Barbuda and Belize were expected to begin training Monday for a possible U.S.-led invasion of Haiti. They are to train at the U.S. naval base in Roosevelt Roads in San Juan's west coast city of Ceiba, military officials said Sunday.

The base regularly hosts U.S. forces training under the Atlantic Command, which will be in charge of the multinational coalition. American soldiers would be in the first wave of the invasion, with the Caribbean troops going in immediately afterward. A similar arrangement was used in the 1983 invasion of Grenada to topple a leftist regime that had executed the prime minister. Maj. Steve Pantan, a military spokesman, said U.S.

military staff would train the soldiers in first aid, handling civil disturbances and controlling crowds.

"They would also receive cohesion training to help them come together as a unit since they are from different countries," he said.

Maj. Pantan did not know how long the military exercises would last but said there would be a 15-day training cycle for each contingent of troops.

The three Caribbean nations, along with Trinidad and Tobago, vowed to participate in the multinational coalition last month during a meeting of the 13-member Caribbean community in Kingston, Jamaica.

Lt. Elizabeth Jones, a military spokeswoman, said troops from other participating countries were expected to arrive in Puerto Rico within a week. Those countries include the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Guyana is also to participate, contingent on its parliament's agreement.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Monday called on Haiti's military rulers to leave the country.

In an interview with Reuters Television in Tokyo, Dr. Ghali said U.N. diplomatic efforts to solve the crisis were at a dead end similar to that reached by the United States. He said "three or four" of Haiti's leader should leave the impoverished Caribbean country in the interests of its people.



A lock of hair, reportedly cut from Napoleon Bonaparte's head by his linen maid six hours after his death in 1821, sits for sale on the auctioneer's table in Chicago at the annual Napoleonic Society of America Convention.

Alleged Napoleon hair reveals emperor was not poisoned — FBI

CHICAGO (AFP) — Hair purported to come from Napoleon Bonaparte revealed no lethal levels of arsenic after extensive FBI testing, historians said Sunday.

"This hair did not come from a person who died of arsenic in the time period represented by the hair growth," Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent Roger Martz said in a signed letter.

The announcement left debating experts no closer to solving the question of whether Napoleon died of stomach cancer or poisoning at age 51, during the last day of the 10th annual meeting of the Napoleonic Society of America.

The hairs in question came from locks that accompanying documentation claims were cut off Napoleon by a maid six hours after he died. Some experts believe Napoleon was slowly poisoned with arsenic and finished off with a combination of natural elements that formed cyanide when he died on May 5, 1821.

Napoleon had been banished to the Island of St. Helena off southern Africa in 1815 after his defeat at

Waterloo. His health began to decline in 1817.

Supporters of the poisoning theory claim both the British who imprisoned him and French factions supporting the monarchy of Louis XVIII whom Napoleon had threatened had a motive to kill the former leader.

The fact that the FBI detected no traces of arsenic did not dissuade murder theorists. "Since the hair is not authentic, what difference does it (the test) make?" said Ben Weider, the Canadian co-author of the book The Murder Of Napoleon.

Mr. Weider has based his conclusions in part on 1962 British tests on a separate set of hairs supposedly from Napoleon that were found to hold abnormally high traces of arsenic.

Mr. Weider contends Napoleon was assassinated by a member of his entourage, saying Count Charles Tristan de Montholon slowly poisoned Napoleon so the death would not appear suspicious. The symptoms of arsenic poisoning are detailed in the diaries and notes of eight men who witnessed the emperor's decline, Mr. Weider said.

Napoleon "was not poisoned by arsenic nor murdered," countered Philip Corso, a plastic surgeon and Napoleon scholar.

Thomas Hindmarsh, a Canadian toxicologist, said nothing he had heard would make him assume Napoleon was murdered by arsenic. "Put the arsenic theory to rest with Napoleon's bones," he said.

The FBI tests concluded the highest level of arsenic found in the sample was 2.8 parts per million. Although normal levels are one part per million, they can reach as high as three parts per million in polluted areas, Mr. Hindmarsh said.

Ernest Chiodo, medical director for Detroit, Michigan, said arsenic was frequently found in food, medicines, wines and as a preservative.

"There is not enough evidence to even bring together a coroner's inquest to examine the matter," he added.

Meanwhile, the disputed authenticity of the hair sample has not kept it off the auction block. The owner, French physician Jean Ficom, is accepting bids for the 220-strand lock of hair at a minimum of \$100,000.

Tension grows in rebel Chechnya

MOSCOW (R) — Opposition groups in Russia's turbulent Chechnya region appear to be marshalling their forces for a decisive attempt to topple separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Former Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and another top opposition leader said Sunday they would work together to overthrow Mr. Dudayev who has held power in the Caucasian territory of 1.3 million since 1991, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

The meeting between Khasbulatov and Umar Avturkhanov, who heads the self-styled Provisional Council, raised the prospect of a bloody showdown with Mr. Dudayev who has said he will not step down peacefully.

Soviet Air Force general, unilaterally cut off Chechnya from Russia three years ago and amassed a huge popular following with stirring independence speeches.

After an initial abortive attempt to crush Mr. Dudayev's separatist bid Moscow decided to ignore the move, which has yet to win any international recognition.

Mr. Dudayev, a former

Spielberg planning sequel to Jurassic Park

NEW YORK (AP) — Director-producer Steven Spielberg plans a sequel to Jurassic Park, one of the biggest box-office successes of all time, to open in June 1997, Forbes reported Sunday.

The magazine made the disclosure in its Sept. 27 issue cover story about the top 40 best-paid entertainers, which Spielberg led with estimated 1993-94 gross earnings of \$325 million. Forbes said the dinosaurs-come-back-to-life thriller was a major contributor to Spielberg's wealth, grossing \$900 million at the box office. Another \$1 billion in Jurassic Park-related merchandise has been sold since last year. In an interview with Forbes, Spielberg said he intended to make a sequel to open for the summer 1997 movie season, renouncing his one-time aversion to sequels as a "cheap canny trick." "It's not so precious to me and I'm not so personal about Jurassic Park that I have any reason not to give the audience what they want," Forbes quoted him as saying.

China bans Zhang Yimou from making more films

HONG KONG (AFP) — China has banned its best-known director, Zhang Yimou, from making films for the next five years because his most recent picture, *Life Times*, was shown abroad without Beijing's blessing.

Hong Kong press reports said Monday. Quoting reliable sources in Beijing, the Overseas Chinese Daily News added that Zhang's favoured actress and muse, Gong Li, has also been barred from travelling to international film festivals. The ban has effectively halted work on Zhang's next project, *Shanghai*, a French-backed production on which one million yuan (\$117,000) has already been spent, the newspaper said. It has also triggered a flurry of protests to the Ministry of Radio, Film and Television by Zhang's peers among the so-called "Fifth Generation" of independent-minded Chinese film-makers.

A similar report was carried by another Hong Kong daily, Express News. *Life Times*, winner of two prizes at the Cannes Film Festival, painted a bleak picture of life under Communist rule by tracing the life of its characters through successive political turnouts.

Supermodel turns to literature

LONDON (AFP) — Supermodel Naomi Campbell is more than just a pretty face, critics agreed last week following the launch of her first book, but could not help asking how much of it was really her own work. Campbell and publishers Heinemann, who were reported to have paid the 23-year-old catwalk queen a \$150,000 advance for *Swan*, admit she was helped by editor Caroline Upcher. Campbell says she dictated her ideas for the 359-page story of five models chasing a cosmetics contract on to tape, and Upcher worked them into novel form.

"Naomi couldn't have done it without Caroline and Caroline couldn't have done it without Naomi," is the Heinemann line to inquiring journalists. Sir Hardy Amies, dressmaker to Queen Elizabeth II since 1955, was impressed when he reviewed *Swan* for the Daily Telegraph. "I think I shall award Swan a place in my library of books on fashion. The depiction of life and work in that crazy world is genuine," he said. Journalists have recalled that Campbell's only previous venture into "literature" was her appearance in Sex, the Madonna album of erotic photographs, but Amies noted that "There is very little sex" in the novel. Meanwhile admirers have besieged signature sessions to have a copy of *Swan* dedicated by Campbell in bookstores with their windows filled with her picture. Whether they will snap up her first record, released Monday, remains to be seen. After a preview spin of *Love And Tears* London entertainment guide Time Out commented that it "sounds like (Donna Summer) singing underwater" or "Cher on Prozac." Campbell's first film, titled *Miami*, comes out in March and she is soon to start work on a second. "I've got to use all this energy. I've always got to be doing something," she told Time Out in an interview.



Jessica Tandy holds up the Oscar she won for best actress for her role in *Driving Miss Daisy* (File photo)

Actress Jessica Tandy dies at 85

NEW YORK (R) — Actress Jessica Tandy has died, CBS Radio reported Sunday. The British-born actress, whose career spanned six decades, was 85 years old.

Tandy electrified theatre audiences in 1947 as the original Blanche Du Bois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, opposite Marlon Brando in a performance that became Broadway history.

But the London-born actress found her greatest fame late in life with her Oscar-winning performance as a southern matron in *Driving Miss Daisy*.

Until that pivotal moment, which came at the age of 80, Tandy had enjoyed relatively little success in movies, instead earning her sterling reputation on stage and winning three Tony Awards in the process.

Tandy, whose crisp diction and dignified appearance became hallmarks of her acting career, took on everything from *Mollere* to *Chekhov*, *Shaw* and *Noel Coward* to *Edward Albee*.

Asked why it had taken so long to win the Oscar, Tandy replied: "I don't think I've ever had a part in a movie that afforded me the opportunity of being nominated for an Oscar."

As Daisy Werthan, a crusty Atlanta widow who forges a close friendship with her black chauffeur over 25 years to the dawn of the civil rights movement, Tandy was the sentimental favourite for the Oscar and quipped "good for me" when she accepted the award.

Before *Daisy*, Tandy, whose second marriage in 1942 to Canadian-born actor Hume Cronyn was one of Hollywood's most enduring romances, had taken only sporadic film roles, focusing instead on theatre after making her stage debut at the age of 16.

Although it would bring her only her first of three Tony Awards, it was as Blanche Du Bois, the fragile, unstable southern belle of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, that Tandy's achieved her greatest stage success. She was elected to the Theatre Hall of Fame in 1979 and in 1988 was honoured by American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Film, television and stage audiences delighted in her vivid, energetic portrayals, whose characters ranged from Jewish mothers and obedient daughters to crazed nymphomaniacs and fierce matrons.

But she once claimed in an interview there is no such thing as sheer acting.

"I don't 'construct' characters based on my own life," she said in 1989. "The author very carefully, over months, constructs a character, and sometimes a character will take over and run away from a writer and construct itself. But then it's my job to put flesh and bones on it, to get the very best out of what is written, not to make it different. It's not a creative process," she insisted, "but an interpretive process."

she married actor Jack Hawkins in 1932, and had one daughter before divorcing Hawkins.

Emigrating to the United States in 1940 during World War II, she landed several roles on Broadway and met Cronyn, whom she married in 1942 and had two more children.

Protestants bomb Dublin train, warn of more blasts

DUBLIN (R) — A bomb planted by a Northern Irish Protestant extremist group exploded at a Dublin rail station Monday, injuring two people, and the extremists warned they planted more bombs in the Irish capital.

The outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) said it had planted bombs at two other Dublin stations, government offices and Dublin Airport.

"These threats are being investigated urgently," a police spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman said the bomb, planted beneath a seat, exploded when the train was at Connolly Station in the centre of Dublin, just off the city's main street. The two wounded did not have serious injuries, she added.

The warnings, which went first to a local television sta-

tion and then to Dublin police, caused traffic chaos throughout the city centre. Connolly Station is the main rail terminal for services from Belfast and other parts of Northern Ireland.

It was not immediately clear whether the bomb had been placed on the train in Belfast.

There had been fears that Protestant extremists would stage an attack in Ireland after the Irish Republican Army (IRA) declared its historic ceasefire 12 days ago.

Monday's blast was the Protestant extremists' first attack outside Northern Ireland since the ceasefire was announced and raised fears the outlawed group would widen its campaign against the IRA's goal of a united Ireland.

Emmys have all ingredients of TV soap opera

PASADENA, Calif (R) — Television's 46th annual Emmy Awards had all the ingredients of a prime time soap opera triumph over tragedy, David over Goliath and the poignancy of an untimely death.

The star studded ceremony at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium Sunday also saw the industry's decision on one of the most watched battles in American TV history, that between late night talk show hosts David Letterman and Jay Leno.

In the end, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, voted that David Letterman's CBS chatter had bested Jay Leno's NBC patter to win the Emmy Award for outstanding variety, music or comedy series.

The two hosts have fought for the hearts and minds of the late night audiences since Letterman left NBC to start the Late Show With David Letterman in August last year in direct competition with *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno*.

In terms of most wins, N.Y.P.D. Blue, the New York-based police show criticised for its nudity and four-letter words but praised for its nonstop action and social messages, came out on top for the ABC network with six Emmys.

Nevertheless, the night was seen as a disappointment for the show, which had been nominated for a record 26 awards.

Of the Emmys won by N.Y.P.D. Blue, only two, outstanding director of a drama series for Daniel Sackheim, and outstanding actor in a drama series for Dennis Franz, who plays detective Andy Sipowicz, were major awards.

The other four were for writing and technical merit. If N.Y.P.D. Blues was seen as the Goliath of the



Actress Faye Dunaway poses with the Emmy Award she won as best guest actress for her appearance in *Columbia: It's All In The Game* at the 46th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards Sunday (AFP photo)

Emmys in terms of nominations, Pickett Fences, the quirky CBS drama set in the fictional small community of Rome, Wisconsin, might have been considered the Day.

It was nominated for only 11 awards and came away with five, including outstanding drama series.

"That was the big surprise for us," an ABC spokesman said. "We really didn't expect

to break the (Emmy) record, but we thought we would get the best drama award."

Pickett Fences also won outstanding supporting actress and actor in a drama series for Leigh Taylor-Young and Fyush Finkel as well as two technical awards.

The triumph over tragedy story belonged to Kelsey Grammer, the former Cheers star who overcame drug and alcohol problems to reprise the barroom character of

pompous psychiatrist Dr. Frasier Crane in the NBC series, *Frasier*.

Frasier, nominated for 11 awards, won five, including outstanding lead actor in a comedy for Grammer, and outstanding comedy series.

In the battle of the networks, CBS came out on top with 26 Emmys, NBC had 14, followed by ABC with 13 and Fox with two. The HBO cable all-movie network had eight.

Candice Bergen, who as the character Murphy Brown in the CBS comedy series of the same name was the target of then Vice President Dan Quayle's famous moral values speech in 1992, won her fourth Emmy for outstanding lead actress in a comedy series — all for playing the television reporter who chose to have a baby out of wedlock.

The Emmy for outstanding lead actress in a drama series went to Sela Ward for her role in the ABC series *Sisters*.

The untimely death of Jessica Tandy at the age of 85 in Connecticut dimmed the otherwise glittering occasion. Tandy was a nominee for outstanding lead actress in a miniseries or special for her role as Cora Peek in the Hallmark Hall of Fame special *To Dance With the White Dog* on CBS.

Tandy did not win the award, which went to Kirstie Alley as Sally Goodson in the CBS production *David's Mother*.

But ironically, Tandy's husband, Hume Cronyn, won the Emmy for outstanding lead actor in a miniseries or special for his role as Sam Peek, Cora's husband, in *White Dog*.

Cronyn was not present to accept his award. He was grieving with his family in Connecticut. His wife was honoured with a moment of silence after her friend and colleague, actor John Lithgow, said, "Jessica, your friends in television say goodbye to you tonight. We will miss you very, very much." Acting trophies given out Saturday for guest appearances on Comedy and Drama series went to Faye Dunaway for a role on *Columbo*, Eileen Heckart for *Love And War*, Richard Kiley for *Pickett Fences* and Martin Sheen for *Murphy Brown*.

Violence erupts during Bangladesh strike

DHAKA (R) — Opposition activists exploded bombs, hurled rocks at police and attacked vehicles during an eight-hour general strike in the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka and other cities Monday, witnesses said.

They said clashes in Dhaka began after some transport owners tried to take their vehicles out onto the streets under police escort.

The government, trying to beat the strike called by opposition parties seeking early elections, said it would compensate owners for vehicles damaged during the stoppage.

Witnesses said an unspecified number of people were injured in bomb explosions and scattered street battles near Juran on the city's outskirts. Angry pickets attacked a few motorised rickshaws that ventured out, along with some buses.

Police chased pickets and detained several near the Saidabad Bus Terminal.

An earlier transport strike which had suspended bus and truck services between Dhaka and outlying districts was called off Sunday night.

The first eight-hour general strike Sunday was confined to Dhaka. The capital was already reeling from an opposition-led "siege" Saturday in which more than 200 people were injured and nearly 150 arrested in bloody street battles between police and activists.

Monday's eight-hour strike also gripped the port of Chittagong, the industrial city of Khulna in the south, Rajshahi in the north and the coastal city of Barisal.

Chittagong residents said dozens of home-made bombs had been exploded there.

Local officials contacted by telephone said no transport, except for rickshaws, operated in any of the cities and schools, private offices and businesses were closed. Attendance at government offices was low.

Residents in Rajshahi said police arrested about 10 activists of the opposition Jamaat Party for stoning a bus.

The main opposition Awami League and its allies, the Jatiya Party and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami have called the "siege" and strikes to press demands for the government to resign and hold early general elections.

A 12-hour national shutdown has been called for Tuesday.

The opposition, which has boycotted parliament since February, says an early election must be supervised by a neutral caretaker government to ensure free and fair voting.

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), elected in 1991 in the country's first free polls since its creation in 1971, has rejected the demands as unconstitutional. The next election is not due until 1996.

"We have scored a complete success on the first day of strikes. And there will be no let-up until the government is forced to accept our demands," Awami chief Sheikh Hasina told a huge rally Sunday.

Government sources said Monday they were not ready to consider the demand for early elections.



A police officer stands outside the White House fence as floodlights at rear illuminate the scene where a small airplane crashed into a tree on the South Lawn of the White House and then came to rest against the building. The lone occupant of the airplane was killed.

Small plane crashes on White House lawn

WASHINGTON (R) — A small single-engine plane crashed onto the South Lawn of the White House early Monday morning but President Bill Clinton was not in the building at the time, a White House spokesman said.

Police said the pilot of the plane, which penetrated a restricted flying area around the president's home and office, was killed. Officials said it was not immediately clear whether it was a deliberate attack or an accident.

The Clintons were staying at Blair House, the official guest house across Pennsylvania Avenue, because of renovations in the White House, the spokesman said.

The crash occurred about 2 a.m. EDT (0600 GMT). "It was a small single-engine plane," said Deputy Press Secretary Arthur Jones. "It crashed and rolled on the South Lawn right near the building."

"Part of the debris broke a window, that's the extent of the damage" to the White House itself, Mr. Jones said.

Sniffer dogs were brought in to examine the wreckage, but officials said no explosives were found on the plane, which came down just to the left of the white pillared portico yards from the Rose Garden, scene of many official functions.

The president's personal quarters are on the third, and top, floor of the building, with lower floors taken up by ceremonial rooms and offices.

The family had initially been due to move back in Sunday but their return was delayed a day as the repairs to the heating and air conditioning were completed.

Police at the scene said the red and white Cessna plane had glided in with no motors on.

A witness said he saw the small plane fly east over the Mall, a wide park leading from the Potomac River, and turn left and head straight for the White House. The witness, Adolphus Roberts, who was on the Mall, said the plane had lights on both

Rwanda premier rules out amnesty

PARIS (Agencies) — Rwanda Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu, in an interview published Monday, flatly ruled out a general amnesty to encourage refugees in Zaire and Tanzania to return home.

"Nearly a million Rwandans have been massacred ... these people (responsibles) must be arrested and judged by an international tribunal," he told the French daily *Information*.

The massacres, ignited by the April 6 assassination of Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana, have been widely blamed on the Hutu government then in power, its army and tribal militia allies.

Western governments want Rwanda's new government, led by Mr. Twagiramungu and dominated by former rebels of the mostly Tutsi Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), to reassure more than a million refugees living in squalid camps outside Rwanda — many of them Hutus — that it is safe for them to return to their homes.

But the government has begun detaining increasing numbers of Rwandans, raising fears that it may retaliate for the massacres.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Saturday that about 2,000 Rwandans had been detained over the past 10 days.

Mr. Twagiramungu said it was "incomprehensible" that the West would propose a general amnesty.

"As we speak, there are committees looking for Nazis around the world, 50 years after (World War II). But here, after a few months, we should proceed to a general amnesty," Mr. Twagiramungu said.

"Before all are judged, there is no possibility that we would accept an amnesty or negotiate with people who planned and carried out the massacres," he said.

He said dismissed as "rumor" reports that former Hutu soldiers were rearming in Zaire in an effort to spark a new civil war in Rwanda.

But if there former government troops did try to trigger new fighting, "they will never be able to win," he said.

The new head of the U.N. human rights monitoring team in Rwanda said Monday he hoped that it would soon be able to start its mission and patrol the country.

Bill Clarence arrived in Rwanda Saturday to replace Karen Kenny, who declined to renew her contract because of what colleagues said was dissatisfaction with support for her mission.

Mr. Clarence told Reuters he believed his arrival heralded a change in the U.N. attitude to human rights in Rwanda and he hoped more monitors would arrive within 10 days.

"I hope the team will now snowball and soon we will be able to patrol all sectors of the country," said Mr. Clarence.

"I would not have accepted this job unless I believed things, very important things, would be done. We have an important role to play and we will fulfil it," the Briton added.

His arrival in Kigali brought the number of U.N. human rights monitors in the central African state to five, two months after the end of three months of civil war and massacres.

Meanwhile three Rwandan refugees have died at the Kibumba refugee camp in eastern Zaire after being fired upon by Zairean police at the weekend, a U.N. spokesman said Monday.

Kris Janowski, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said the cause of Saturday's clash was not yet known.

The unrest prompted the UNHCR to call on aid workers in the region to be prudent and only send in personnel where strictly necessary to the camp at Kibumba.

U.N. special envoy to Rwanda Shahryar Khan left Kigali for the Zairean capital Kinshasa Monday to meet President Mobutu Sese Seko to discuss Rwandan refugees, an U.N. spokesman said.

Mr. Khan will return Tuesday and then go for talks Friday in the Tanzanian capital, Dar Es Salaam, spokesman Pierre Mehu said.

N. Korea reports progress at U.S. nuclear talks in Berlin

BERLIN (R) — North Korea said Monday some progress had been made in talks with the United States on switching its nuclear technology to a new variety that would almost rule out the production of atomic weapons.

It also hinted it could be pressing for a new German reactor still to enter production and not equipment from South Korea, which insists that it must be closely involved in any final deal between Washington and Pyongyang.

"We have already made some progress," North Korean delegation chief Kim Jong-U told reporters as he arrived at the U.S. mission in eastern Berlin for the second round of discussions, officially described as "technical."

There has been no comment on the talks from the U.S. side, led by State Department official Gary Saymore.

Mr. Kim and Mr. Saymore and their teams met for seven hours on Saturday at the former North Korean embassy — now an "interest office" as united Germany has no relations with Pyongyang.

Parallel with the Berlin talks, in Pyongyang the two countries are discussing the setting up of liaison offices in each other's capital. They will come together again in Geneva for umbrella negotiations on Sept. 25.

"This morning we will talk about light-water reactors. And if all goes well we will move to other alternative

energy sources," a smiling Kim said after stopping to talk to a crowd of mainly South Korean reporters.

A woman from his delegation declared: "We prefer EPR technology. It is much safer and more secure." She was clearly referring to a "European pressurised-water reactor" which the German company Siemens is developing with Framatome of France.

Siemens spokesman Wolfgang Breyer said in Munich the company received a telephoned "general query" in late August from the North Koreans and had given a "general response."

In talks with the United States in Geneva last month, the North agreed to suspend its nuclear programme while the two sides discussed how its current graphite-moderated reactors could be replaced by light-water technology.

This would be financed and supplied by a U.S.-led international consortium. Graphite reactors produce plutonium that can be used for making nuclear weapons.

Seoul, anxiously watching moves towards rapprochement between Washington and Pyongyang, wants the North to accept a South Korean-model reactor — allowing the South to keep control of the nuclear situation on the peninsula.

North Korea's insistence that it does not have a secret

nuclear arms programme won limited support Monday from a report prepared by the U.N. watchdog body, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and given to Reuters in Seoul.

The Vienna-based agency said samples it had taken from the reprocessing plant at Yongbyon near Pyongyang indicated the North had not extracted plutonium between February 1993 and March this year.

Earlier this year tension was high in East Asia when North Korea refused to allow the IAEA into two suspect sites it says are not part of its nuclear programme and appeared to be taking the first steps to making weapons.

The situation was defused after the North agreed to fresh talks with the United States when former President Jimmy Carter went to Pyongyang for a meeting with the largely isolated country's leader Kim Il-Sung.

Mr. Kim died in July but North Korean officials say there will be no change in policy under his son and political heir Kim Jong-Il. The North makes little secret of the fact that it sees the main prize as formal links with Washington.

One Pyongyang official in Berlin said at the weekend that if the two-track negotiations — both expected to last well into this week — and the Geneva umbrella talks were successful "many things open

up for us."

He said many foreign companies were interested in investing in the development of what analysts say is an increasingly crippled state-run economy in the North, but were balking back because of U.S. hostility.

Meanwhile, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci arrived in Tokyo Monday, launching a visit to American allies Japan and South Korea for talks on North Korea's nuclear programme.

Mr. Gallucci will meet senior Japanese Foreign Ministry officials Tuesday for talks on North Korea's willingness to shift from graphite nuclear reactors to light-water technology, press reports said.

Mr. Gallucci leaves Tokyo Wednesday for a three-day stay in Seoul. A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Seoul said Monday the United States is lobbying South Korea to make a clear pledge of financial aid to help provide the North with the safer type of reactors.

His visit comes amid separate meetings which are underway between U.S. and North Korean experts in Berlin and Pyongyang to discuss North Korea's nuclear reactors and the exchange of liaison officers.

South Korean press reports said U.S. negotiators urged the North Koreans to resume dialogue with the South, but met with no response.

Regional elections put pressure on Kohl

BERLIN (Agencies) — Opposition Social Democrats and former communists attracted a strong vote in elections in eastern Germany Sunday while the liberal Free Democrats collapsed, giving Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling Christian Democrats a hard nudge in the ribs five weeks before general elections.

The former communists in the Party of Democratic Socialism increased their vote in regional elections in Brandenburg and Saxony despite a virulent anti-Communist campaign by the Christian Democrats, who warned that the former communists might end up holding the balance of power in the federal parliament after the national elections on Oct. 16.

Results published Monday showed that in Brandenburg, Social Democrats led by Premier Manfred Stolpe won a first-round majority with 54.1 per cent of the votes, against 38.2 per cent in 1990. The former communists in the PDS won 18.7 per cent (against 13.4 per cent) and the Christian Democrats

dropped 11 points, from 29.4 per cent in 1990 to equal the PDS with 18.7 per cent.

In Saxony, Christian Democrats led by Premier Kurt Biedenkopf won 58.1 per cent of the votes, against 53.8 per cent in 1990. The Social Democrats there dropped from 19.1 per cent in 1990 to 16.6 per cent Sunday.

The wins were seen as personal victories for the two popular premiers.

The Free Democrats, a key component of Mr. Kohl's governing coalition, failed to pass the five per cent bar, thus losing their seats in both states. They had been allied with Mr. Stolpe in the Brandenburg parliament, but their vote there fell from 6.6 per cent to 2.2 per cent, and in Saxony it fell from 5.3 per cent to 1.7 per cent.

The ecologist Alliance 90/Greens also lost their seats in the two houses, with their votes falling in Brandenburg from 9.3 per cent to 2.9 per cent and in Saxony from 5.6 per cent to 4.1 per cent.

A total of some 5.5 million people had been eligible to

vote in the elections but turnout was well below 1990, with 58.4 per cent of those eligible voting in Saxony, against 73 per cent in 1990, and 56.2 per cent in Brandenburg, against 67 per cent.

The landslide victories by the incumbent premiers in Germany's two state elections gave no clear signal for the general election next month, a leading pollster said Monday.

"Both votes were first and foremost state elections and voters saw them this way," Hans-Juergen Hoffmann of the Infas polling Group told German Radio.

"They are hard to fit into the national picture and say this or that was decisive for Oct. 16."

Mr. Kohl is leading his SPD challenger Rudolf Scharping in opinion polls for the Oct. 16 general election, but pollsters say his centre-right coalition's score of just under 50 per cent leaves its re-election unsure.

Mr. Hoffmann said Mr. Kohl's liberal coalition partner, the small Free Democra-

tic Party (FDP) would have to fight for its life after losing its sixth poll in a row in Germany's voting marathon that began last September. There are 20 elections this year.

"The FDP will have it hard in the general election, especially with east German voters. Things don't look much better for the FDP in the Bavarian state election in two weeks' time either," he said.

"The wide variety of coalition we now see in the states shows that voters no longer see the FDP as the party that is needed to provide majorities for coalitions."

Mr. Hoffmann described the results for the reform communist Party of Democratic Socialism as a kind of protest by eastern voters alienated by the problems that have arisen since German unity in 1990.

The dramatic drop in voter turnout was worrying, he said. "It shows that many voters in eastern Germany, faced with the many problems they have, no longer put their faith in our democratic system."

U.K. minister in Cuba to look at reform process

HAVANA (Agencies) — British Trade and Technology Minister Ian Taylor arrived in Cuba saying he wanted to find out about the Communist-ruled island's current economic reform process and possibilities for boosting trade between the two countries.

Mr. Taylor, the first British minister to visit Cuba for 20 years, arrived with a business delegation representing around a dozen firms from sectors such as sugar, banking and construction.

Mr. Taylor, speaking to reporters on arrival at Havana Airport, said Britain believed it should not be left behind as other European Union countries and NAFTA members Mexico and Canada took advantage of openings in the Cuban economy.

He said he wanted to see "whether we believe that they (the reforms) are sufficiently strongly founded to lead us to encourage further and more extensive commercial relationships between British companies and the Cuban economy."

Britain would make clear if it felt there were areas where reforms should go further to encourage trade, he added.

Areas of interest among British companies included agriculture, basic industries, natural resources such as petroleum and sectors such as construction and tourism, he said.

Cuba, its economy wrecked by the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the old East Bloc, engaged in a cautious process of reform that has included encouraging foreign self-employment.

Meanwhile the pace of Cuban migrants taking to sea picked up over the weekend, with the U.S. Coast Guard rescuing hundreds who hur-

ried to leave the island before the Cuban government halts the departures.

By 2 p.m. EDT (1800 GMT) Sunday, the U.S. Coast Guard had plucked 471 Cuban boatpeople from the waters of the Florida Straits. On Saturday, the rescue count rose to 551, the highest daily count in several days.

The Cuban government, which reached an immigration accord with the United States Friday, has vowed to begin a crackdown Tuesday to halt homemade rafts, inner tubes and flimsy boats from leaving the island.

More than 9,500 Cubans have been picked up at sea by the Coast Guard so far in September, bringing the total number rescued in 1994 to more than 35,000.

Any rafters who attempt the 90-mile (145 km) voyage to Florida Tuesday will also face rough seas and dangerous thunderstorms, according to weather forecasters.

The National Hurricane Centre in Coral Gables, Florida, Sunday downgraded tropical storm Debby to a tropical wave, or slow-moving group of thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds and heavy rains. The storm, now located over Haiti and the Dominican Republic, is expected to move over Cuba by Tuesday, forecasters said.

In a separate development, U.S. soldiers armed with bayonets looked on Sunday as more than 1,000 frustrated Cubans detained at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, roamed through the facility.

The day before about 2,500 Cubans scaled a fence surrounding their tent city on the base's golf course and headed toward the base store and other facilities. Marines with fixed bayonets escorted



Two groups of Cuban refugees float 20 miles off the coast of Cuba. People continue to leave Cuba in rafts despite an agreement reached between Cuba and the U.S. that is meant to stop the exodus from the island (AFP photo)

them back to the camp, but the others remained outside. There were no reports of violence among those who went outside the camp Sunday.

"I have characterised it as a peaceful non-compliance demonstration," Maj. Rick Thomas, a U.S. military spokesman, said in a telephone interview Sunday night.

A 35-year-old detainee suffered a bayonet wound Saturday and was hospitalised. He was reported in stable condition Sunday. Officials with the U.S. Atlantic Command said he was injured accidentally.

"There has been no rock-throwing to my knowledge, there has been no confrontation between the Cubans and the military, and in general, when we've provided instructions, they have cooperated," Maj. Thomas said Sunday.

U.K. to pull out if Bosnia embargo lifted

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain warned the United Nations Tuesday it would be forced to pull its peacekeeping troops out of Bosnia if a U.N. arms embargo is lifted to allow Muslim fighters to restock their arsenals.

Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said Britain would have no choice but to pull out its contingent of more than 3,000 peacekeeping troops for their own safety if arms start to flow back into Bosnia, refuelling the civil war there.

"There is no question about it (a withdrawal) if the arms embargo is lifted," Mr. Rifkind told British Broadcasting Corporation Radio.

"If the U.N. was to decide to start supplying arms to one of the combatants in this war there is no way in which U.N. forces could remain in Bosnia on a bi-partisan basis," he said.

Mr. Rifkind was speaking before a meeting with Prime Minister John Major about the future of British involve-

ment in Bosnia as pressure grew in the United States to lift the arms embargo on the former Yugoslav state.

Meanwhile, U.N. Bosnia commander Lt.-General Sir Michael Rose travelled to Bosnian Serb headquarters Monday to protest the threat to Sarajevo posed by a 120mm mortar within the heavy weapons exclusion zone in force around the Bosnian capital.

The move came after a 120mm mortar round struck Bosnian army lines in the Sedrenik area northeast of the Old City district early Sunday in breach of the NATO-backed 20-kilometre (12.5-mile) exclusion zone.

"This is a clear violation of the total exclusion zone," said U.N. Protection Force spokesman Lt.-Colonel Bernard Labarsouque.

The mortar attack was launched from Serb lines around 3:00 a.m. (0100 GMT) from a location north of the city, said another UN-

PROFOR spokesman Commander Eric Chaparon.

A letter of protest had been sent to Serb authorities in their Pale stronghold and the Rose trip to Pale aimed to impress on the Serb leadership the gravity of the violation, Col. Labarsouque said.

In a separate development, after two days of eloquently invoking Sarajevo's suffering, Pope John Paul II returns home promising to visit the war-ravaged city "as soon as circumstances allow."

The 74-year-old Mass Sunday, the Pope spoke of "deep pain" at being forced to call off his pilgrimage to Sarajevo. Despite the bitterness of local residents at last week's cancellation, the Roman Catholic leader said "they must not feel alone."

Underlining his concern for the city besieged by Serb forces, the Pontiff added that Balkan Muslims belong to "the framework of a respectable and civil co-existence."

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Health alarms

WHEN 200 people get poisoned after eating hommos and falafel at a Salt restaurant, then something is terribly wrong with the Ministry of Health's and municipalities' methods for controlling hygienic conditions at restaurants.

There are many signs that the health authorities in the country are lax in supervising the dispensation of food and drinks to the public. To begin with, there are many vendors who roam the streets selling food-stuffs which are hardly protected from dust and dirt. Popular drinks are also sold on street corners without the least amount of regard for basic health rules, the least of which is proper cleaning of cups used for this purpose. Restaurants are also rarely visited by the Ministry of Health inspectors to determine whether there is respect for basic health standards affecting the life of the people.

The people of Amman and elsewhere in the country have learned that people who frequent restaurants in Jordan have a high chance of contracting diseases, simply because the eyes of the Ministry of Health are not wide open. When we add to all these reports that our water is not really fit for human consumption due to contamination and deterioration in the water network, there is fear that the Kingdom lags very much behind other countries even less endowed with modernisation than us. On previous occasions, we have voiced our concern about the contamination of our agricultural produce with pesticides and insecticides that contain carcinogenic elements. Every nation in the world resorts to the way of chemicals to control the threat of pests and insects, but the use of such potentially dangerous products has always been under a close watch of the authorities. Unfortunately, in our country many farmers go on abusing the deployment of such chemicals to such an extent that the cancer rate in this country has registered new gains in recent years. So why are we so negligent in protecting our people and their health from wanton disregard for basic health rules? Since we are committed to set the dynamics of modernisation into motion, we are duty bound to start with the basics before we elevate our horizon to more sophisticated modes of modernisation.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily demanded that the government take action concerning rumours and press reports about corruption and misuse of funds at the national airline, Royal Jordanian (RJ). The government should not keep silent over the reported act of corruption rumoured about RJ officials and both the government and the RJ management should issue statements about the real situation, demanded Tareq Masarweh. If the rumours about corruption and RJ officials receiving commissions from foreign firms were true, then the prosecutor general should be allowed to take over the case and investigate the allegations. And if the report proves incorrect, the newspapers that published the allegations should be treated accordingly added the writer. For his part, the prime minister denied that the resignation of the RJ director general has anything to do with corruption and commissions received from foreign firms trying to sell planes to Jordan, but the press reports persist and clarification on the part of the government and RJ is a must, continued the writer. He said that it was the Americans who initiated the allegations and perhaps they did that in a drive to prevent the European firms from selling their own aircraft to RJ. Therefore, the writer concluded, it is the duty of each and every person to fight off all kinds of rumours designed to tarnish the image of the Kingdom and its institutions.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Monday demanded that the government pass a law against giving or accepting bribes, a phenomenon that has been spreading in Jordanian society. Jihad Momani said there must be a law that provides for punishing those who accept bribes from the public and those who offer the bribe for selfish interests, because bribing has become commonplace in all dealings in the public and private sectors. People often speak bitterly about the changes that affected the Jordanian society in the wake of the Gulf crisis that brought numerous socio-economic hardships to the country, prompting many to resort to bribes to secure their own selfish interests, said the writer. Blaming the returning expatriates for the upsurge in bribing, the writer said many government officials have accepted as little as JD 10 to help facilitate the process of a government-related business.

The View from Fourth Circle

One year later: The promise remains strong, yet unfulfilled

By Rami G. Khouri

ONE YEAR after the signing on the White House lawn of the Israel Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Declaration of Principles pluses and minuses shows a stubborn, frustrating equilibrium between grand hopes and limited achievements, in a landscape of the political mind where romanticism is constantly being restrained by realism.

A broad assessment of the implementation of the Sept. 1993 accord reveals that it is not a full peace agreement that will resolve the Palestinian-Zionist or Arab-Israeli conflicts. It is, rather, an initial, local and limited truce — an expression of a mutual Israeli-Palestinian will for psychological and political detente, as the essential first step towards comprehensive Mideast peace.

Supporters of the accord, myself included, argue that its full promise requires a commitment to protracted, complex and phased negotiations over a period of between five and ten years. During this period, Palestinian and Arab rights will be achieved gradually, in tandem with the geographical, containment and political dehybridisation of Zionism. This attitude is bolstered by some of the positive gains that have been achieved in the last year.

The most important pluses include: a) the implementation of the initial self-governing Palestinian authority in Jericho and Gaza, which has begun the process of Palestinian national affirmation and reconstitution in Palestine; b) the Palestinian authority's expansion into the rest of the Israeli-occupied West Bank in the sectors of education, health, tourism, social welfare and taxation; and c) the reciprocal recognition and grudging respect that is developing between Palestinians and Israelis, as both grapple with the complex challenges of statehood that is neither predatory (for Israelis) nor capitulationist and dependent (for Palestinians).

Political support by both Israelis and Palestinians for the accord's continued implementation has been firm and steady. The opposition in both camps has been steadily discredited as outdated. Neither the Israeli right nor the Palestinian far left or right has been able to offer a credible alternative to peace-making, or even to muster substantial meaningful political opposition to the agreement.

The political violence suffered by both sides in the last year seems relatively modest in scale in historical terms, and relatively narrow in terms of the domestic political forces it reflects; the Hebron pogrom was not modest. Of course, but it is clearly a fading echo of the past, rather than a harbinger of the future, given the predominant revulsion to the massacre expressed by the Israeli and Jewish mainstream and the determination of both sides to push ahead with the peace talks.

A survey of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza in mid August showed that 66 per cent supported and 24 per cent opposed the appointment of municipal councils in Gaza and Nablus. While 53 per cent supported and 36 per cent opposed the Arafat-led leadership of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). The trend of the Palestinian Islamist opposition movement Hamas towards participating in the political institutions now taking shape in Palestine was heightened in late August by its call for a

dialogue with the PLO and its acceptance to serve on the PLO-appointed Jericho town council.

If commonly expressed fears of a Palestinian civil war have been averted, fears of domestic strife between the Israeli mainstream and armed rightwing Jewish settlers remain a nagging danger that will have to be reckoned with. But domestic Jewish civil strife will not derail the peace process, given the majority backing for a negotiated peace on both sides. Indeed, the single most important and lasting lesson of the last year is probably the affirmation that the century-long clash of Arab and Jewish nationalism cannot be resolved through violence. But only through negotiation, compromise and mutual recognition.

Beyond the bilateral gains, the September 1993 accord has also triggered significant regional gains: Historic breakthroughs in Jordanian-Israeli peace talks, advances in Israeli negotiations with Lebanon and Syria, movement towards communication/economic links and possible normalisation of ties with Arab countries further afield such as Morocco, Tunisia and some Gulf states, and an emerging regional, multilateral approach to resolving key challenges or exploiting major opportunities in fields such as water, energy, transport, trade, tourism, environmental protection and communication.

That's the good news. The bad news is that the big, contentious, final status issues remain not only unresolved. But also untouched: Jerusalem, the Palestinian refugees, the Israeli colonies (settlements) in occupied Arab territories, borders and Palestinian's sovereignty status. On these issues as well as on the immediate transfer of authority to the Palestinians, Israel acts on the basis that Israelis and Jews have a superior or at least a sequentially priority right to statehood and security than do the Palestinians. Thus, Israel asserts that if the Palestinian police do not stop those (presumably Arab) people who are attacking Israelis, the continued implementation of the Palestinian self-governing authority may be halted. This is peculiarly racist logic and intellectual violence, given the fact that mighty Israel itself could not stop Palestinian attacks against Israelis. But then, Zionist racism, like violence by both sides, is one of the lingering legacies of the past that must be cleansed from our region for genuine peace to take hold.

Another disappointment to date is the quality of Palestinian self-government in the fields of administration, financial affairs and human rights. Yasser Arafat and his guys run the Palestinian authority like they ran the PLO in recent years — mostly as a private fief that is not so well disguised as a populist national institution. However, their Yeltsin-like patriarchal style has also generated strong protests and pro-democracy counter-pressures from the grassroots and the Palestinian intelligentsia. In the region and around the world: both demand that Palestinian freedom and governance must provide a better model than the litany of authoritarianism and military rule that have plagued most of the Arab World for the past half century.

One of the worrying aspects of the past year remains that virtually all the major decisions on all the key issues by all

the Arab governments involved in the peace-making process have been made by handfuls of people, without any meaningful popular debate or participation in policy formulation. Of course, polls show majority popular support for the policies of all the Arab parties. But we should be careful about what this means: For in modern Arab history, it is axiomatic. Almost politically pavlovian, that a majority of the people will express public support for the government's policies. To do otherwise would be foolhardy, even dangerous, in many Arab countries.

Therefore, it is hard to tell today how much support there really is for the peace process among the Arab grassroots. The greater danger is that if the Arab people are not fully convinced of the details of the peace accords now being worked out in their name by Arab governments that are vulnerable because they sense enormous pressure on their credibility and in some cases, their legitimacy and incumbency. The peace that is handed to future generations may prove to be flawed, illusory and short-lived.

The Arab shortcoming of the lack of democratic participation is matched on the Israeli side by a sense that protecting Israeli national rights and security remains the benchmark of progress — rather than attainment of equal rights for Israel, Palestine and the other Arab states. Israel's self-centred arrogance may prove detrimental to peace if it forces a weak and dependent Palestine to accept grievously skewed peace terms on the big issues that remain to be addressed. Arab autocracy and Israel's racist sense of superiority are a deadly combination when they interact diplomatically, as they are doing now: they remain major vulnerabilities on the path to greater peace.

A further negative today is the increasing sense around the world, especially in the West, that the Arab-Israeli conflict is over and that only the details remain to be worked out. Western disinterest in the Middle East may lead to slow disengagement. Should this combine with the existing power imbalance in the region that sees Israel able to dictate most of the key terms of the unfolding peace process. It is possible that stalemate or Arab humiliation over the final status issues to come could wipe out the achievements to date, and then plunge the region yet again into a new round of violence and hatred, probably fuelled by mutually virulent religious nationalism. It is still possible that intransigence and frustration could not only stall the existing peace process but also bring back Likud and Islamists/lefists as the dominant powers in Israel and some Arab states.

The last year has indicated a desire by all parties to avoid this possible bleak future scenario by relying on the deeds of diplomats, rather than the clash of warriors. The past year has confirmed with desire of the Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese governments to press ahead with the quest for a negotiated peace settlement to the most vexing international conflict of the 20th century. It has yet to reveal the ability of these governments to conclude an honourable peace that is acceptable to their people, and that can withstand the verdict of history.



Vatican prestige at stake

By Philip Pulella
Reuter

CAIRO — It has not been a good week for the Roman Catholic church.

Its leader, Pope John Paul, was forced to cancel the trip closest to his heart and showed signs of increasing frailty. At the same time his Vatican took one of its worst bairings from the international community at a U.N. population conference.

The Pope's dream of being a messenger of peace in embattled Sarajevo was dashed by security concerns. He went ahead with a trip to Zagreb instead amid concerns for his health, which has been frail since he broke a leg last April.

Calling himself "a defenceless pilgrim of reconciliation", the man who once left aides breathless on his gruelling tours now walks with a cane.

As the 74-year-old Pope's determination and health were being tried in the Balkans, the real test of the Vatican's international prestige was going on in Cairo. For the past week, the Vatican has been battered by criticism from women's groups. Diplomats, dissenting Catholics and government officials at the U.N. population conference.

At stake, some say, is the prestige of the institution many of whose followers do not practice what their priests preach.

"The bottom line is the credibility of the papacy. If no one follows him, for whom does he speak?" one diplomat asked.

The Vatican's foot-dragging over abortion left delegates asking if the tiny city state — which has only several hundred residents — should have such disproportionate influence in the United Nations.

A headline Vatican stand on one paragraph on abortion kept the conference bogged down for five days until Friday night, when a compromise formula on language allowed it to move on.

The Vatican said it was taking the moral high ground by holding out until the U.N. guaranteed that abortion would not be promoted as a means of family planning.

It said it would never endorse abortion but let stand a statement acknowledging that it was permitted in many countries and that unsafe abortion was a problem.

"If they wanted to produce a better text (on abortion) they have won because the language is clear-

er. If they wanted to enhance the status of the Vatican as a diplomatic institution, I think the jury is still out," said one delegate.

"People will be asking a lot of questions about this," Exasperated women's groups, delegates and representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and dissident Catholics at the conference accused the Vatican of "hijacking" the forum.

"I do not understand why one religion, which often does not represent the views of all its members, can hold up an international conference," said Allan Rosenfield, dean of the School of Public Health at New York's Columbia University.

"I think other religions should band together and demand equal time," said Dr. Rosenfield, who is attending the conference as an NGO delegate representing some U.S. medical associations.

The Vatican, a sovereign state, has permanent observer status at the United Nations and as such is allowed to participate as a full member in the world body's conferences.

It says its role in the world body is unique because it is based on ethics and not politics.

"We have no geopolitical interests. Our position has an ethical basis and that is why there was a lot of interest in our position, both by Catholic and non-Catholic nations," said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

But some diplomats questioned whether this time the Vatican had done itself more harm than good by being so firm.

The women's rights lobby, which turned out at the conference in force, vented anger at the Vatican.

"We must expose the obstructionist tactics of the Vatican for what they are: A thinly veiled and concerted strategy to hold this conference and women hostage," the Feminist Majority Foundation, a U.S. coalition, said in a statement.

Delegation heads and U.N. officials were evasive when asked to comment publicly about whether the Holy See's role in such conferences should be reevaluated.

Asked if she felt the Vatican had hijacked the conference, Nafis Sadik, its chairman, laughed and said:

"I don't think I could answer that question. Ask me after the conference is over and I have retired."

Britain and Ireland try to make peace process work

By Maggie Fox
Reuter

BELFAST — Britain and Ireland may have differing approaches, but they are making it increasingly clear that they are both determined to use an Irish Republican Army (IRA) ceasefire to make the Northern Irish peace process work.

The two governments were quick to show a united front after an IRA jailbreak attempt in England on Saturday — saying that, even though a prison officer was shot, the breakout did not count as a breach of the guerrilla group's 10-day-old ceasefire.

The Irish Republican Army's declaration on Aug. 31 that it was stopping its guerrilla war against the British threw Northern Ireland's politics into pandemonium, with Unionists, who want to stay British, saying it was either a political ploy or, worse, the result of a treacherous plot to sell them out.

The British government strongly denies this — and Prime Minister John Major threw the raucous Democratic Unionist Party leader Ian Paisley out of his office last week for suggesting he was lying about it.

But the behaviour of London and Dublin raises the question of whether Mr. Major and Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds are not employing a "good cop, bad cop" approach to coax the guerrillas out of their 25-year battle stance.

Mr. Reynolds moved with breathtaking speed to embrace Gerry Adams, the leader of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein. He invited the once-reviled Adams to Dublin just six days after the ceasefire took effect.

He has started work on a forum for peace and reconciliation, which he hopes will provide a platform for all the leading parties in Northern Ireland, although Unionists say they will not come.

Opposition Irish parties, as well as Sinn Fein, Northern Ireland's moderately Nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Liberal Unionist Alliance Party have all said they will attend.

Publicly, Mr. Major is working much more slowly. He has declined to accept that the IRA ceasefire is

actually permanent, thus delaying any decision on when and whether to allow Sinn Fein into talks on the future of the province.

The Downing Street declaration made by Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Major last December promises Sinn Fein a place at talks on the future of the province 90 days after a "permanent" IRA ceasefire.

Mr. Major has been very careful not to say whether the "clock is ticking" on those 90 days. This leaves him more space for deciding about Sinn Fein's participation.

Much has been made of an alleged split between the British and Irish government, with newspapers at varying times reporting that one side is fed up with the other.

But government sources say the two men, who spoke on the telephone on Saturday, have agreed to make use of their differing approaches.

"They both accepted they were moving at somewhat different speeds but that they were going in the same direction," said one government source, who said the railway analogies were Mr. Major's.

"And they agreed that they were headed to the same station."

Saturday's prison break attempt was immediately held up by Unionists as proof that the IRA had not given up its violent ways, but Mr. Major and Mr. Reynolds decided to ignore it.

"The breakout was referred to and they both agreed that there would be hiccups along the line — but they would not allow them to derail the process," the source said.

The carrots held out by Mr. Major to Sinn Fein and the IRA may be smaller, but they are carrots nonetheless.

The government agreed to let British troops in Northern Ireland relax a little.

And when it became clear last week the United States was about to allow Mr. Adams to make a second visit, Mr. Major did not raise nearly the ruckus he did in January, when he was reported to be furious about a U.S. decision to lift its ban on the Sinn Fein leader.

Jordan, Israel resume



A Rwandan refugee builds a hut at the Kahindo camp north of the Zairean town of Goma (AFP photo)

Blind fear binds Hutus in desolate exile

By Richard Dowden

GOMA — Renovat Rugo listens to all the foreign radio stations: The BBC, Deutsche Welle, the Dutch and the French services. He is a measured, thoughtful man, 43 years old, well educated and until recently an English teacher at a training college in Rwanda. Such people are rare in the vast refugee camp at Kibumba north of here. Most people are illiterate.

"I cannot trust the Tutsis," says Mr. Rugo. "They are not honest. If a peasant returns to Rwanda who cannot read and write maybe he will have no problem but if you are educated they will kill you."

I asked him if he would come back if I came with him. "I would not," he said, "as long as you were with me they would leave me alone but when you were gone or in the night, they would come. They want to kill all educated Hutus."

Looking across the vast crop of blue and green plastic hovels stretching across the plain from the slopes of dark looming volcanoes on each horizon, one concludes that the fear that makes this home to a quarter of a million people must indeed be deep. Cholera and dysentery killed about 50,000 refugees in a few days here and the death

rate is still higher than any other human habitation. Misty through the smoke of thousands of wood fires, this is a horror scene, perhaps the nearest hell has got to Earth. And it will get worse again. As we spoke the murky sky opened and marble-sized hail stones poured down sending people scurrying and crawling into their tents of stick and plastic. The rains usually last about two months and they will bring malaria and pneumonia.

Mr. Rugo recounts horrific tales of Hutus returning to Rwanda having their eyes put out of their stomachs slit open. No witnesses to support these tales have been found by journalists or aid workers but the tales are widely believed.

The "ardent wish" expressed by Kamanda wa Kamanda, the Zairean minister for Justice, that all the Rwandese refugees should leave his country by the end of September is a pipe dream. He is reported to have assured aid-workers privately that such a deadline is unrealistic and that the Zairean government simply wants to pressurise all parties to find a solution which will allow the refugees to return. No one I spoke to in the camps could conceive of a political solution which would dispense

the fear and hatred quickly. Another teacher in Kibumba camp who asked not to be quoted by name said that even if the Zairean army came and shot at the refugees they would not go back because they would prefer to die by a bullet here than be chopped by a machete back in Rwanda. Another said that the new Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) government regarded all returning Hutus as spies for the defeated government army.

At the border there are a few families with their meagre bundles waiting to cross and make their way home. There may be as many as 3,000 a day trickling back according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees but compared to the estimated 840,000, still in Zaire this is a trickle and recently the new Rwandese authorities picked up 700 returnees just across the border and screened them. None is reported to have been held but by the time this fact reaches the camps it will no doubt have been distorted into a terrifying rumour.

Efforts by the UNHCR to arrange the return of refugees have failed so far. Most people do not go back because they are frightened that the RPF soldiers will kill them.

There have been several abductions and summary executions by the RPF soldiers. Independent witnesses have seen men being taken from cars or in the street. Some of these cases may be soldiers seeking revenge. Others may be a result of the policy of finding those responsible for the massacres. But there has been no evidence of an official policy of killing Hutus or returning refugees.

Some observers have speculated that the refugees feel guilty because among them are many who carried out the massacres of hundreds of thousands of Tutsis

In April and May, Mr. Rugo and three other witnesses to massacres in Rwanda said that the massacres had not just been carried out by militias but that everyone joined in, even women and children.

"No they do not feel guilty now," said Mr. Rugo. "They thought they would be successful, they thought they would get rid of all the Tutsis. They failed. Now the bad seed has been sown. They are seeds of hatred and they are in these little children you see here. This is a very long story and it is going to continue."

The Independent

Jordan, Israel resume talks

(Continued from page 1)

on this point was left to the two governments.

He said no date was set for opening the border crossing point because the two sides had a lot to prepare technically.

"My feeling is that the northern border crossing will also be assigned for third country nationals like the southern border crossing," he said.

Asked to comment on a Radio Israel report that the King Hussein Bridge will be opened for trucks and foreigners living in Israel would be allowed to cross the bridge with an Israeli interior ministry permit without a visa from Jordanian embassies abroad, Dr. Tarawneh said that this question was not discussed at Monday's meetings.

"If we assume that the radio report is correct, then the concerned Jordanian authorities should provide the answer because such agreements requires special arrangements," Dr. Tarawneh noted.

He noted that the bridge crossing was also linked with the Palestine National Authority, and the Tiberias meeting addresses only Jordanian-Israeli issues.

Asked whether Israel was serious in its negotiations with Jordan, Dr. Tarawneh said such questions had been repeated over and over again. The two sides possess documents on which they both agreed but they require to go into details about them, he said.

These documents, he added, tackle international borders and the terms of reference for agreement on the borders which were demarcated under the British mandate in 1920.

"In discussing water rights we are going into details to exactly determine each side's rights and share in the water of Yarmouk and Jordan rivers and the underground wa-

ter reserves," Dr. Tarawneh said.

"The fact that the negotiations are continuing means that the two sides are seriously seeking positive results," he added.

On the importance of involving officials from the World Bank in the two-day meeting, he said that these were experts but their presence does not necessarily mean that agreement of any kind have been concluded.

The experts are currently reviewing the feasibility studies of projects envisaged for the coming year prior to determining the sources for financing them, he said.

In reply to a question whether the recent Syrian president's address had any effect on the course of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, Dr. Tarawneh said that the address reflected Syria's views about the peace process.

"We are conducting a peace process but whatever happens on one track should not necessarily affect progress on the other," he added.

Ilan Ben Tsour, deputy director general of the Israeli foreign ministry, told reporters that progress was achieved in talks in tourism, economy, and the border crossing issues.

Bridging the gap between the two sides on water, borders and territory was possible, he said, adding that he believed there was no insoluble problem.

Mr. Ben Tsour said there was no agreement yet about air corridors for civil air travel but this issue would be soon solved because a special joint committee is at work discussing all its aspects.

According to the head of the Israeli negotiating team, Mr. Rubinstein, Israel has proposed the formation of an Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian committee to deal with issues of concern to the three parties.

This is the third in a series of reports on the impressions the writer got during a recent 10-day stay in the Republic of Yemen.

By P.V. Vivekanand

AS PRESIDENT Ali Abdullah Saleh grapples with the problem of streamlining Yemeni politics after the two-month civil war and bringing southerners under the wing of a united Yemen, he also faces another challenging task: Of satisfying northern groups who stood by him during the secessionist war.

Mr. Saleh belongs to the Hasheds, one of the prominent northern tribes whose members have traditionally occupied senior positions in the government and lead the dominant General People's Congress (GPC), the largest bloc in the National Assembly.

Ironically, many leaders of the mainstream Islamic group, Al Islah, the second strongest political party in post-crisis Yemen, are from the same tribe. Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar, the undisputed leader of the tribe, is speaker of parliament. Many senior officers in the armed forces and government are Hasheds.

The common tribal link is one of the factors that have contributed to maintaining the GPC-Islah coalition in government intact. But they could also pose a serious problem in the event of a GPC-Islah fallout, an eventuality not ruled out by Yemen watchers as President Saleh presses ahead with moves to further democratise the country and liberalise the economy to a structure more conducive to foreign investment.

Sheikh Abdul Majid Zindani, another leader of the Islah party and member of the five-member Presidential Council, is from the Bakil tribe, which is larger in size than the Hasheds.

Many independent-minded members of the Bakil tribe were seen as tilting towards the southern-based Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) during the crisis that led to the civil war that began in May. They resented the Hashed dominance of government.

However, during the civil war, Sheikh Zindani's influence, coupled with President Saleh's assurances, dissuaded them from rallying behind the YSP. This was blessing in disguise for the government since Bakils joining the war on the side of the YSP would have prolonged the war and posed uncertainties over its outcome.

In Yemen, a country awash with weapons—officials say that there are 50 million guns among the 14-million-strong population—tribal loyalties play a key role in determining victory in any armed confrontation.

An ordinary Yemeni citizen may not be fully trained in modern warfare, but he could surely wreak havoc in a situation of war," said a Western diplomat.

Sheikh Zindani, a fiery preacher, "not only contributed pro-Islah Bakil fighters to the battlefield against the southerners but also persuaded others to stay put during the crisis," said the diplomat. "This was a major factor in the army victory in the civil war."

Today, the Bakils are demanding the payoff for their role during the war. There is nothing strange about their demands. Incidents where Westerners

were held hostage to press tribal demands for roads and increased financial allocations were only symptomatic of the approach in the past.

"The Bakils now want higher positions in the armed forces, increased infrastructure projects in their areas and appointments in the senior levels of the bureaucracy," said an Asian envoy in Sanaa.

"That is not to mention 'blood money'—financial compensation—for Bakil fighters killed in the war."

These demands, according to analysts, have added to the problems of the cash-strapped government of President Saleh, who is facing Al Islah pressure for an equal share in executive power and administration on the political front.

Al Islah is also a vehement opponent of any executive role for the YSP, whom President Saleh needs badly in his efforts to reconcile with the southerners after the civil war and bring about a coherent single national entity under the wing of his government.

Diplomats say that the president faces the delicate task of bringing in enough technocrats into the government to address the pressing need for economic reforms and moves for a free market economy as well as a stabilised economic system while meeting the conflicting demands.

It will not be an exaggeration to say that President Saleh today finds himself in perhaps the most difficult political situation that would ever confront a head of state," said the Asian envoy.

"Indeed, he is a survivor and a very smart politician. It would need very iota of his skills to satisfy everyone."

Sources close to the presidential palace say that Mr. Saleh, a career military officer who took over political leadership 16 years ago, was even threatening to quit office if some of the political groups, including Al Islah, pressed its demands too hard.

That would be a negotiating strategy in most other political systems, but in tribalistic Yemen with its peculiarities it is more than just a bluff that political groups might be inclined to call.

"The president has made it clear that setting united Yemen on a path towards economic recovery, consolidation of democracy and a streamlined modern society is his priority and that if vested interests do not allow him enough freedom, then he would not hesitate to step down and let someone else try his hand," said one source.

"He is willing to accommodate everyone as long as the beneficiaries understand the reality of his objectives and are ready to work with him," said the source. "But it would be counterproductive to pose impossible and unrealistic demands."

On the coalition front, President Saleh is seeking a government that reflects all shades of the political system, including the YSP, despite Al Islah's opposition to the socialists.



Ali Abdullah Saleh

independents, some whom later aligned themselves with other parties.

"It is technically possible for the GPC to scrap its coalition accord with Al Islah and form a new government with the YSP deputies (51 of them remain in the country after the civil war) and the independents," said a European expert on Yemeni politics.

"But it is highly unlikely, given President Saleh's commitment to maintaining a government which is representative of the entire Yemeni society," said the expert. "He might bring in YSP deputies into a broad coalition as independents. This could be one way of assuring the southerners that some of their representatives are in government."

But the question is how many YSP members might be willing to accept such an arrangement. In the meantime, other

Time for Yemeni leader to reward allies

political groups in the country complain of "mysterious elements" working from within party ranks to split them.

"It has become quite common to see junior level party officials suddenly trying to take over the party," said Abdul Aziz Saqqaf, editor of the country's only English-language weekly, the Yemen Times.

"They occupy party offices under some pretext or another, claiming that they are the legitimate leaders of the party," Dr. Saqqaf said.

The Jordan Times was a witness to one such incident, which was resolved by a police colonel in his crowded office in a police station in the western suburb of Sanaa in less than 10 minutes.

Mohammad Al Barraaq, a member of the Tagammu' Al Wahdawi Al Yamani, had taken over the party office claiming he was the general secretary of the party. In the ensuing crisis, three leaders of the party were briefly detained.

Colonel Yahya Zaher called party leaders in, discussed the problem with them and settled it by releasing the detainees and handing over the keys, papers and other items under dispute to the entire group, advising them to resolve the problem among themselves.

"I have nothing to with your political dispute. That you can take elsewhere," Col. Zaher told the group. "I interfere only when there is a threat to law and order."

"I hope I don't see you again in my office with this dispute," were the parting words of the police officer, after meeting out his Solomon-style justice.

Beirut needs rules for its emerging markets

JOUNIEH, Lebanon (R) — Lebanon needs rules against money-laundering and insider-trading to become a reputable offshore financial centre, legal and financial experts said.

British and Lebanese experts said that with billions of dollars expected to pour into Lebanon and the Middle East for post-war rebuilding there was a risk they would become money-laundering centres.

"If Lebanon wants to grow into a sensible offshore financial service centre it has to be seen to have the right safeguards," Philip Newhouse of the British firm Taylor, Joyntson and Garrett told a conference on reforming Lebanon's commercial laws.

"We expect Lebanon will be a net recipient of funds over the next few years from a number of sources. The question of money laundering, whether from drugs or terrorism, needs to be tackled head on," the London-based lawyer said.

The conference, which was organised by the U.K.-based British Middle East Law Council (BMELC), sought to draft a blueprint for reforming Lebanon's commercial and financial laws.

The conference recommended that Lebanon should retain its banking secrecy, which was an asset, but fuller investigation by banks of new clients' backgrounds was needed to avoid attracting

launched money.

Gabriel Sehnaoui, head of the newly-appointed Beirut Stock Exchange committee, said the committee was working on new financial regulations for the bourse which is expected to open soon after an 11-year closure.

The committee understood the need for "providing more protection to the investor from insider-trading and money-laundering," Mr. Sehnaoui told the delegates.

Mr. Newhouse said Lebanon hopes its re-emerging financial markets can grow to meet local demand first and then become a regional centre.

Mr. Newhouse warned that authorities must not forget the importance of proper regulations in their eagerness to develop the market.

"The real problem that we face is that whenever anyone is desperate for business, they tend not to take the same safeguards they would otherwise take," Mr. Newhouse told Reuters.

Lebanese authorities should not shy away from turning away some good business "if this is the price which has to be paid to keep out bad business," he said.

Pierre Gaspard, treasury manager of Beirut's Banque Saradad, said an independent agency could be set up to supervise equities trading, ensure market transparency and investigate insider trading.

Such an agency could establish norms for listing stocks, including accounting and audit standards, and draw up ethical and technical standards for licensing brokers, Mr. Gaspard added.

Lawyer Naoum Khatrar said Lebanon might attract money-laundering because of its legendary banking secrecy, the lack of controls on foreign exchange and movement of funds and lack of obligation for banks to investigate clients.

"You can transfer millions and millions of dollars here and no one would talk to you," Mr. Khatrar told Reuters.

"In Lebanon... a judge can't summon you to disclose any information unless it is a case of death or bankruptcy," Mr. Newhouse said.

Mr. Newhouse said the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) classified Lebanon, the Middle East's banking hub before the 1975-90 civil war, among the world's 11 leading offshore banking centres.

Banks in the BIS reporting area showed some \$12 billion in liabilities booked through banks in Lebanon at the end of 1991, mainly as Euro-currency borrowing, he said.

"The easiest way to launder money is through the Eurobond market. Since these were bearer bonds, whoever carries the bond and coupon is the owner," Mr. Newhouse said.

Britain increases key lending rate to 5.75%

LONDON (R) — Britain raised interest rates for the first time in five years Monday, increasing its key lending rate by half a percentage point to 5.75 per cent to keep a lid on inflation.

Shares fell in London in initial reaction to the move by the Bank of England but then rallied as government bonds scored gains on hopes inflation would be dampened down.

It was the first real interest rate rise in Britain since October 1989 — announced rises in 1992 did not take effect — and it caught the markets by surprise after speculation of a rate rise had cooled in recent days.

If followed official figures showing that output prices — prices for goods as they leave the factory — had risen 0.3 per cent in August, much more than expected, for a year-on-year rise of 2.3 per cent.

Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Kenneth Clarke said the government had decided to act now because the economy was strong.

"My overriding aim now is to make sure that this healthy growth can be sustained to deliver higher living standards and more jobs," he said in a statement.

The rise was immediately followed by the first increase in rates for house loans. The nationwide Building Society, one of the country's biggest mortgage lenders, announced

it was jacking up home loan rates by 0.4 percentage points to 8.14 per cent.

Commercial banks soon began to follow the central bank's action with Barclays leading the way.

The half-point rise will put the economic policies of John Major's government under the spotlight in the run-up to next month's ruling Conservative Party conference.

Business leaders have expressed fears that Britain's recovery after longest post-war recession is still too shaky to withstand a rate rise, which will increase the costs of investment for industry.

The opposition Labour Party, well ahead in opinion polls, has also warned of the risks of a rate hike, which it said would affect consumer confidence and signs of a faltering recovery in the housing market.

It was the first real rise in Britain since Oct. 5, 1989 when rates were pushed up to 15 per cent from 14 per cent.

Rates were then cut steadily until Sept. 16, 1992 or "black Wednesday," when they were twice as high in a chaotic day of trading to try and stop sterling being forced out of the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM) by speculators.

But those increases never took effect. Mr. Major pulled the pound out of the ERM officially and rates returned immediately to the pre-crisis level of 10 per cent.

Iran expects to earn more than \$10,15b in oil income this year

NICOSIA (R) — Iran expects it will surpass its oil revenue target of \$10.15 billion in the year started March 20, central bank governor Mohammad Firooz Adeli said in an interview published Monday.

Mr. Adeli also told the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) that Iran was keeping up with payments on its new letters of credits after rescheduling some \$8 billion, about 70 per cent of its overdue debt, with its major creditors this year.

"Oil prices have risen, and so far we are confident that we are going to exceed that level," Mr. Adeli told MEES when asked about the \$10.15 billion target. "But by how much, it depends."

He gave no figure for Iran's foreign exchange reserves, but said they were sufficient for nine months of imports at the rate of the last 10 years' average.

Mr. Adeli said the United States was "putting pressure

on its partners and allies and international organisation not to have any reasonable or logical cooperation with Iran."

But Iran had normal ties with many U.S. allies, he said, though the postponement of several Iranian loan requests on the World Bank agenda "should be attributed to the pressures."

He said Iran was negotiating with its minor trade partners to reschedule the remaining 30 per cent of its overdue debt.

"The overdue payments are something around \$10 billion, the short-term debt — in my definition with a one-year maturity — is something around \$6 billion or \$7 billion, and the long-term debt — which is something up to the year 2006 — amount to maybe \$2 billion. The total therefore is around \$18 billion to \$19 billion," Mr. Adeli said.

He said the volume of the rescheduled payments,

spread over four years after a two-year grace period, was "something less than 15 per cent of the foreign exchange revenue each year" and could be tolerated.

He said the central bank had put the letters of credit issued before March in the rescheduling scheme, but it had managed to pay on time all commitments on letters of credit opened since March.

Tight monetary measures imposed on importers had led to a 20 per cent appreciation in the value of the rial against the dollar, Mr. Adeli said.

"If they (importers) want to buy foreign exchange, we require them to pay for its counter value in rials... we do not accept 10 per cent or 20 per cent," he said. Banks were allowed to require their clients to buy their large volumes of goods on a medium-term basis, rather than opening the letters of credit on sight.

Liberia seeks way out of economic morass

MONROVIA (AFP) — In an office overlooking war-torn Monrovia Finance Minister Wilson Tarpeh scratches his head to find ways of persuading the world that Liberia's battered economy is an investment prospect worth considering.

With his bow tie and braces, Mr. Tarpeh looks the typical international banker, which is exactly what he used to be.

The finance ministry, with its battered decor and lifts that don't work, makes a striking contrast.

Mr. Tarpeh, named finance minister when the transitional government took office in March, admits foreign firms are not yet queuing up to sink money into the country.

"They are returning at a very slow pace," he told AFP.

But he insists, without a hint of laughter, that if peace comes Liberia will be a good place to do business.

"This is a private sector economy from birth," Mr. Tarpeh said. "This is about the least controlled economy in Africa."

A number of recent developments have fuelled optimism. One was a decision by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Aug. 26 to lift its ban on assistance to Liberia.

The country has foreign debts of nearly \$2 billion, which it is unable to service, while its gross domestic product has fallen nearly 100 per cent to just \$250,000 since civil war broke out in December 1989.

There are also "strong indications," Mr. Tarpeh says, that rubber giant Firestone, one of Liberia's main employers until the war, is interested in returning.

But the fragility of the country's finances is illustrated by a court case which in the last few days has left the main source of government income — maritime fees — frozen.

The Liberian flag remains one of the world's most common flags of convenience.

The case concerning an alleged \$2 million debt, brought in the U.S., has now been "amicably settled," Mr. Tarpeh insists, optimistic the funds can be unfrozen.

Goh warns West against 'neo-protectionism'

SYDNEY (AFP) — Efforts to rid developing countries of child labour by introducing "social clauses" into international trade negotiations would be "profoundly misguided" and hypocritical, Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong warned here Monday.

Such efforts would contradict the objective of making lasting improvements in labour conditions and "may unravel four decades of progressive freeing of world trade" under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), he said.

Mr. Goh is on an official visit to Australia and was to meet his counterpart Paul Keating for talks in Canberra Tuesday.

In a speech to New South Wales University's Asia-Australia Institute, Mr. Goh referred to pressure on some Western governments — including the United States and Australia — to make improved human rights a condition of trade deals with Third World and developing nations.

He spoke optimistically about the proposed Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) free trade agree-

ment being sought by Australia.

Indonesian President Suharto had proposed that a future APEC agenda include a programme of trade liberalisation leading to free trade, Mr. Goh said, adding: "Singapore strongly supports this vision of free trade in the APEC area."

But he said "a new concept of protectionism" was gaining ground in some quarters in the West.

"It threatens to undermine the international consensus — achieved after eight arduous years of the (GATT) Uruguay Round," he said. "Calls to include labour and environmental standards — so-called social clauses — in trade negotiations are dressing up old notions of protection with a new cloak of respectability."

The neo-protectionists argue that the West cannot turn a blind eye to child labour and other offensive practices. More candidly, they say that Western nations should not have to compete against low-income countries, which follow labour standards that the West has long abandoned," pointed out.

These arguments had an air of morality and were understandable, but social clauses in international trade negotiations and deals would be "profoundly misguided."

Labour standards concerning working conditions, worker rights and were levels could not be divorced from general living standards in developing countries, and the harsh reality of abundant unskilled labour competing for too few jobs.

"Workers in developing countries accept bad working conditions because their alternative is unemployment, destitution and hunger — it is worse. Blocking exports from these countries will not improve their lot or create jobs for them — it will only make them poorer," he emphasised.

However, Mr. Goh said Asia would not take two centuries to improve social conditions as the West did.

WE'VE TAKEN A FRESH LOOK!

... SO SHOULD YOU!

* **DAJANI'S**

Gold & Gems Jewelry

Amra Hotel, 6th Circle, Amman.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN



"There was something very important I had to tell you, but the hair dryer blew it off my mind!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argentin

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ZYCAR

□ □ □ □ □

MULBA

□ □ □ □ □

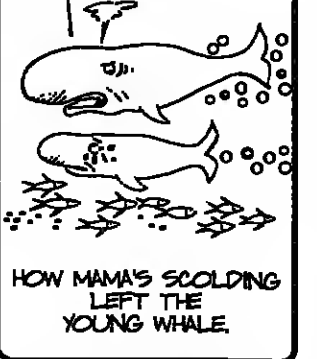
LABBED

□ □ □ □ □

BLOWEB

□ □ □ □ □

No playing until you finish dinner.



HOW MAMA'S SCOLDING LEFT THE YOUNG WHALE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: □ □ □ □ □

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: CHAFE ODDLY PASTRY SPORTY
Answer: What the transportation expert was known as — A ROADS SCHOLAR

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carrol Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The triple Moon sextile to Venus, Saturn and Jupiter provides useful gains by keeping things practical and orderly. There is an increased interest in the arts and dispositions are pleasant.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Go after your personal aims in a positive manner. Contact your best friends. Think along very constructive lines of progress for your success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a fine time to contact advisors and gain their finest suggestions. Your mate will be in view in a far better light.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be with good friends but also make new contacts. Be inspired to new goals which are worthwhile. Stop wasting your time with stragglers.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Use different tactics with higher-ups and gain that promotion which means much to you. Now is the right time to get ahead much faster.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) New situations are developing so make sure you take advantage of any opportunities which are within easy grasp. Keep an eye on your wallet.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A new idea can rekindle the bond between you and your mate. Regain the happiness you may have lost for awhile and you will be in a good light with your loved ones.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make changes in association matters. A new attitude towards your loved ones can be beneficial. Take no risks where your reputation is concerned.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you are more enthusiastic and patient at work you could raise your income. Listen to the ideas of fellow associates for your success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get into the amusements which appeal to you most. Be more willing to do what your mate expects of you; this is very important.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Give more thought to neglected home and kin. Show family that you are concerned about their welfare and happiness.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a good day to get in touch with those you have been thinking about for some time. The evening is best to visit friends and relatives.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Act quickly upon an idea about how you can add to your income. Get into the modern swing of ideas and save yourself some money and aggravation.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

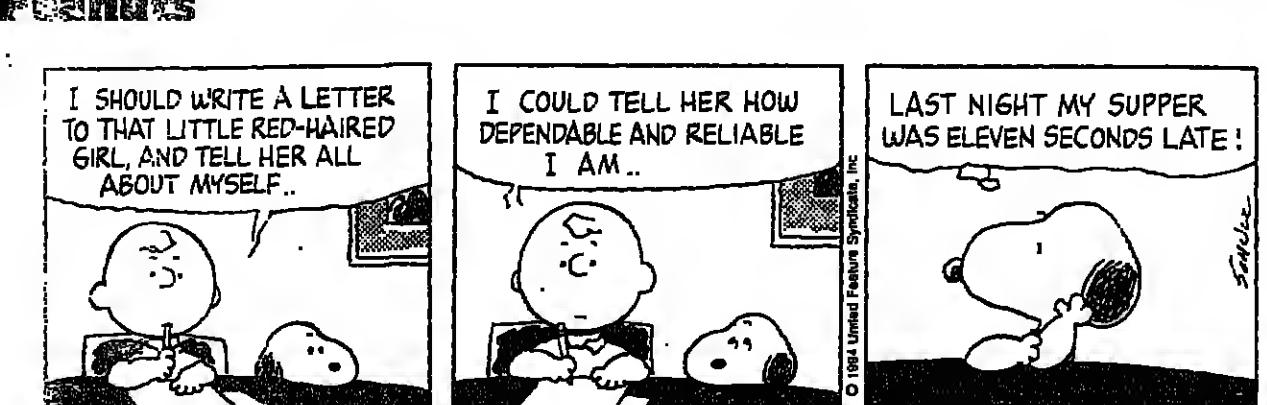
ACROSS

- Endure
- Author Wright
- Cartography
- Room in a case
- Certain
- European
- Be outstanding
- Window ledge
- Pleaser
- Harshness
- Ghostly
- Waterway?
- Climber
- Kind of bed
- Think
- Intreated
- Emine, when brown
- Opposite in character
- Timing device
- Napoleonic
- Wacky site
- Plaster Thomas
- Medieval money
- Surprising
- Address of old time
- Leavening agent
- Reposed
- Indian port
- Be a mendicant
- Coolie
- Checking out a coarser?
- Pro
- Enity
- Subsister
- Coup d'
- Of Man
- Musical refrain
- Andrea — Sario
- Grasshopper
- Vandy

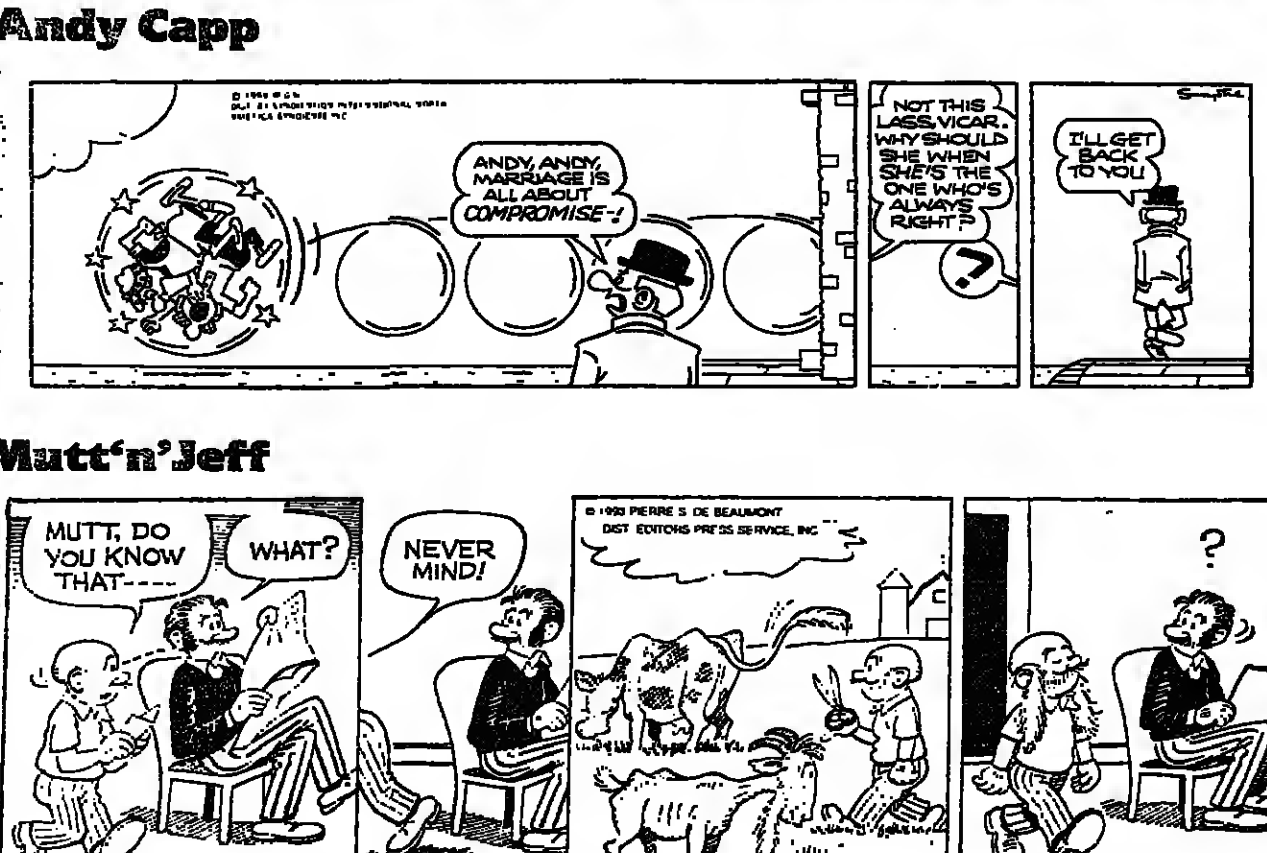
DOWN

- magical
- Arthur of Lewis
- Mis
- Singer Tennille
- Backless driver
- Realistic
- Declined
- Logan or Fitzgerald
- Poetry Muse
- "Ave —"
- Concerning
- Maritime volcano
- Pigeon stories?
- Flatter
- Crow in
- Magical trait?
- Alan or Robert
- Magical trait?
- Be illegal
- Chinese secret society
- Je ne — quel (savour quality)
- Color
- Indian
- Pay attention to
- Child's outfit
- Hymn
- Kind of hat
- Legal matter
- Far from intended
- Speedily
- Iron, e.g.
- Shed
- many words
- 56 Merri —
- Cash drawer
- General idea
- Type type: absc.
- Old Country
- Shed
- 56 Merri —

Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Business & Finance

Jordan Times

Financial Markets

Cairo Amman Beirut

US Dollar International Market

Stocks

Bonds

Commodities

Real Estate

Insurance

Banking

Legal

Medical

Education

Technology

Transportation

Energy

Environment

Healthcare

Telecommunications

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Food & Beverage

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Construction

Automotive

Aerospace

Defense

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Non-Profit

Religion

Arts & Culture

Sports & Recreation

Travel

Hotels & Resorts

Cruise Lines

Airlines

Shipping

Logistics

Warehousing

Distribution

Marketing

Advertising

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Consulting

Engineering

Architecture

Interior Design

Landscape Architecture

Urban Planning

Environmental Engineering

Water Resources

Geotechnical Engineering

Structural Engineering

Electrical Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

Chemical Engineering

Nuclear Engineering

Biomedical Engineering

Industrial Engineering

Systems Engineering

Software Engineering

Computer Science

Information Systems

Database Management

Network Administration

IT Support

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 9/9/94	Tokyo Close 9/9/94
Sterling Pound	1.5525	1.5525
Deutsche Mark	1.5374	1.5357
Swiss Franc	1.2807	1.2795
French Franc	5.2655	5.2717**
Japanese Yen	99.18	98.90
European Currency Unit	1.2400	1.2350**

LND Per 100
European Opening at 8:00 AM GMT

Date: 12/9/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.02	4.25	5.12	5.07
Sterling Pound	4.75	5.12	5.50	6.50
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.93	5.31
Swiss Franc	5.75	3.93	4.18	4.50
French Franc	5.31	5.43	5.75	6.25
Japanese Yen	2.37	2.12	2.25	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.43	5.51	6.13	6.69

Marked bid rates for amounts exceeding 1.0 million U.S. Dollars

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970
Sterling Pound	1.0774	1.0827
Deutsche Mark	0.4518	0.4541
Swiss Franc	0.5420	0.5447
French Franc	0.1319	0.1326
Japanese Yen	0.7019	0.7054
Dutch Guilder	0.4031	0.4051
Swedish Krona	0.0444	0.0446
Italian Lira	0.0444	0.0446
Belgian Franc	0.0444	0.0446

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8270	1.8300
Lebanese Lira	0.040325	0.041845
Saudi Riyal	0.14503	0.14600
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3480
Qatari Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7860	1.8100
UAE Dirham	0.1555	0.1595
Greek Drachma	0.2725	0.3175
Cypriot Pound	1.5850	1.5150

Per 100

SmithKline Beecham to sell N. American business to Bayer

LONDON (AFP) — Anglo-U.S. pharmaceutical group SmithKline Beecham (S.B.) announced Monday it had agreed to sell its over-the-counter (OTC) drugs business Sterling Winthrop in the United States and Canada to German company Bayer for \$1 billion cash.

S.B. said, however, it would retain the world-wide rights to Pandol, the non-aspirin analgesic sold in 64 countries, and the Canadian rights to Gaviscon, the antacid drug.

Bayer will make the purchase through its Miles Inc. subsidiary.

On Aug. 29, S.B. announced an agreement to purchase Sterling Winthrop's global OTC medicines business for \$2.9 billion, through the acquisition of Sterling Winthrop from Eastman Kodak.

In 1993, Sterling Winthrop reported worldwide sales of just over \$1 billion, with profits of \$162.4 million and net assets of \$372 million.

The business being sold to Bayer had 1993 sales of \$366 million, profits of \$43 million, and net assets of \$187 million.

"With the sale of Sterling Winthrop's North American business to Bayer, we will have an exceptionally strong and well balanced business, with the number one position in all major markets outside North America and Japan, and a leading position in the U.S. with U.S. OTC sales of \$584 million," said S.B. chief executive Jan Leschly.

American Express pays \$375 million for Thomas Cook business travel

PARIS (AFP) — American Express has paid \$375 million for Thomas Cook's worldwide business travel management division, American Express said Monday.

Under the deal, American Express, a financial services group, is to acquire the worldwide business travel operations of Thomas Cook Group Ltd. and will also get Thomas Cook Partnership, which is the third-biggest U.S. travel agency network and holds a licence to sell Thomas Cook travel products.

The two business, which have annual sales of \$3 billion, are expected to increase sales of travel arrangements by American Express by about 33 per cent to \$12 billion.

German bank Westdeutsche Landesbank had bought Thomas Cook in 1992 for 600 million marks (\$392 million).

U.S. earnings fall

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Average take-home pay in the United States fell in real terms between 1989 and 1993 and the gap between graduates and high school leavers widened, according to a report.

Women's salaries rose but the gap between men's and women's wages remained wide, the report published by the Economic Policy Institute showed.

Average net salaries measured in dollars fell by 2.6 per cent between 1989 and 1993 after the effect of inflation was taken into account, according to the report entitled "The State of Working America, 1994-95."

High school leavers were the worst affected, with an average fall in salary of 7.8 per cent. College graduates entering the market in 1993 started on salaries 6.1 per cent lower in real terms than their counterparts in 1989.

Real dollar salaries fell most sharply among men, down by 4.6 per cent, while the salaries of women college graduates actually rose by two per cent between 1989 and 1993.

However the gender earnings gap remained wide with men on average earning \$17.62 an hour in 1993 while women earned \$13.57 an hour.

The fall in real wages and the growing gap between college and high school graduates is becoming one of the key characteristics of the 1990s, according to the report.

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Bank of Jordan plans expanded W. Bank presence

AMMAN (R) — The Bank of Jordan, five months after resuming operations in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, plans a major expansion in the territories and self-rule areas in 1995, its chairman said Monday.

"We plan to open in Jenin in less than two months, Hebron by the end of the year, and in the first third of 1995 in Gaza and Khan Yunis and in Tulkarm and Bethlehem later in the year," Tawfik Al Fakhouri, chairman of Bank of Jordan, told Reuters.

A branch in the Palestinian self-rule town of Jericho, to be built on recently bought property, should open in early 1996, Mr. Fakhouri said.

The Bank of Jordan opened a branch in the West Bank town of Ramallah in April, the first Jordanian bank to resume operations in the territories under Middle East peace. It opened a branch in June in the city of Nablus.

The bank — Jordan's third largest commercial bank with \$408 million in assets — had three West Bank branches in Arab East Jerusalem, Jenin and Jericho before Israel captured the area in the 1967 Middle East war.

Its operations in Palestinian self-rule areas would not fall under Israeli-Jordanian rules set last December for reopening Jordanian branches that were in the West Bank before its capture by Israel in 1967.

"Our field experience since we opened five months ago confirms the feasibility of the bank's plan on resuming operations," Mr. Fakhouri said.

The bank is targeting a share of an expected flow of donor funds to the territories and plans to finance industrial, housing and infrastructure projects, he added.

But in the absence of a clear regulatory framework in the territories, the bank would be a cautious retail lender until the "investment climate becomes clearer," he said.

Bank of Jordan's strategy was to be "ready on the ground" and "prepared once economic activity picks up in the territories," Mr. Fakhouri said.

Banking sources said total transfers from Jordan to the West Bank so far have been negligible and did not exceed 10 million dinars (\$14.3 million) since April, mostly family remittances.

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links with Turkey and Israel, Alexander Moll, its coordinator, told a news conference at the weekend.

With a budget of 1.35 million ECUs (\$1.67 million) for a two-year period, the programme is due to be launched next May in the south Moroccan city of Marrakesh.

Mr. Moll said Moroccan enterprise selected would each have at least 30 contact meetings with European firms to discuss the possibilities of partnerships or joint ventures.

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Swedish industry threatens to invest abroad

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The heads of Sweden's four biggest industries and exporters threatened to take their investment abroad if economic policy for industry is not clarified, in a statement Monday.

In an article published in the Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter (D.N.), Soeren Gyll, CEO of Volvo, Lars Ramqvist of Ericsson, Bert-Olof Svanholm of ABB Sweden and Bo Berggren of Stora called for set conditions for industry, rallied against an increase in the marginal tax rate and reiterated the need for Sweden to join the European Union.

Sweden faces legislative elections Sept. 18, and uncertainty over coming changes has industry leaders worried. "We plan to invest ... 50 billion kroner (\$6.5 billion) per year during the next five years. We would like to see the majority of these investments made in Sweden," the four said.

"A Swedish and a foreign alternative are usually considered before most investments, based on known factors. In today's conditions, Sweden is an attractive choice," they wrote.

"The uncertainty over the coming employment and economic measures makes a consistent analysis more difficult, to Sweden's detriment," it said.

"Fixed and well-known playing rules are necessary to create the security we need for our planning," the article continued.

The four called for the marginal tax rate to remain unchanged, stating the need to be able to compete for the best researchers, technicians and other experts.

"Marginal taxes of over 50 per cent would once again severely decrease our attractiveness to recruits and make it more difficult to retain necessary expertise in Sweden," they pointed out.

Asian Games sponsor cancels invitation to Taiwan president

KUWAIT (R) — The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), trying to avert a threatened Chinese boycott of next month's Asian Games, said Monday no politicians would be invited other than those from host country Japan.

A brief OCA statement announcing the decision made no mention of any individual but the move in effect cancels an invitation which the Kuwait-based OCA, the games' sponsor, had extended to Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui.

China, the Asian Games champions since 1986, had threatened to boycott Asia's biggest sporting event unless the invitation to Lee was withdrawn.

The statement faxed to Reuters said: "The Olympic Council of Asia, in consultation with sports leaders from international sports organisations and from within the OCA family, has decided that no political figure will be invited to or accommodated at the 12th Asian Games scheduled to be held in Hiroshima from Oct. 2 to 16, 1994, except those from the host country."

It said it had made the decision with a "sincere and most strong desire to maintain the unity and solidarity of the Olympic and sports family in Asia and in continuation of efforts to ensure the success of the Asia Games in Hiroshima."

China has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since the 1949 end of the Chinese civil war when the defeated nationalists fled to the island.

The invitation from OCA President Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah of Kuwait had created a diplomatic quagmire for Japanese officials involved in the games.

A record 7,300 athletes and officials from 42 nations are due to take part in the four-yearly event, competing in 337 events in 34 sports.

Hiroshima organisers had been worried that time was running out to put the finishing touches on staging the games because of uncertainty about China's participation.

One official said the Japanese had not been consulted before the invitation to Lee was extended.

Games officials were reportedly mystified as to why the OCA president would invite only one Asian head of state.

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In Beijing, China said it "respected" the OCA's decision to cancel the invitation to the Taiwan President but it did not gloat at the setback of its rival.

"We have expressed our stand several times. We hope the OCA will resolve the issue. We respect the OCA's (latest) decision," an official of the state physical culture and sports commission said by telephone.

Hill keeps pressure on; Benetton show strain

MONZA, Italy (R) — Damon Hill's victory in Sunday's Italian Grand Prix kept him firmly in the chase for the world drivers' championship as team leaders Benetton showed signs of cracking under pressure for the first time.

Without the inspiring presence of Michael Schumacher, who heads the drivers' title race with 76 points to Hill's 65, Benetton looked like a team in confusion.

They failed to score a point for the first time since the German Grand Prix in July, when Dutchman Jos Verstappen's car was engulfed in flames, and only the second time this season.

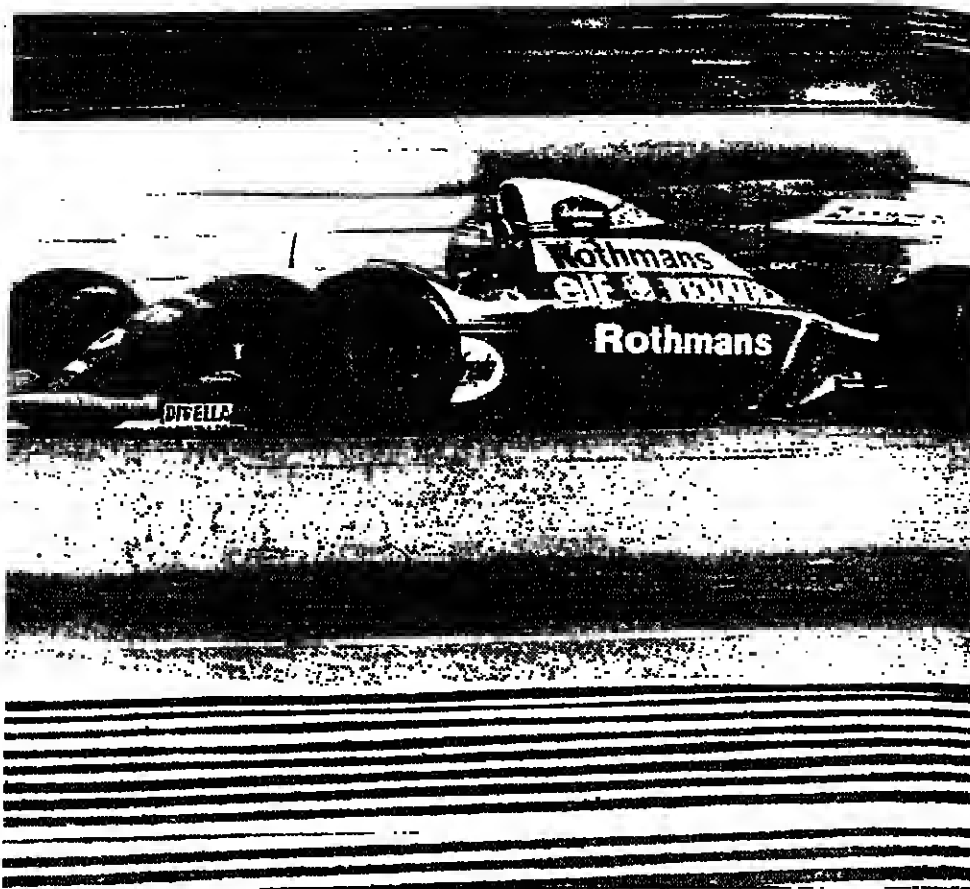
Schumacher's deputy, Finn J.J. Lehto, finished ninth, a lap behind the leaders, and Verstappen retired after an accident on the opening lap. As a result, the team which had six victories in the opening seven races of the year was unusually subdued.

In the traditional Monza atmosphere of rumour and intrigue, Benetton were also the team at the centre of most speculation with several sources of paddock gossip suggesting they have received notice from the suspended Schumacher that he wishes to drive for another team.

Schumacher missed Sunday's 53-lap race, in front of a disappointing crowd of only 75,000, because he was serving the first part of his two-race ban for failing to obey a black flag during the British Grand Prix.

But to judge from his reported remarks to German television RTL on Sunday, he was disappointed with Ferrari and unimpressed with his own team's efforts to defend his championship lead.

According to German reporters who were given an account of his interview with RTL, Schumacher said he had expected "more help from his teammates in 'r' race he expected Hill to win because of the power advantage



Damon Hill

of the Renault V10 powered Williams over its rivals.

Schumacher made no further comments about his own future, which has been linked to McLaren. But Benetton's managing director Flavio Briatore said Schumacher would be staying until the end of 1996.

The 25-year-old German has, however, indicated he will not be testing with Benetton in the next week.

Instead he plans to keep away from motor racing, maintain a lower profile and concentrate on his fitness work in preparation for his return to action against Hill.

Hill will hope to have won again before then in the Portuguese Grand Prix in Estoril later this month and to have

closed the gap to just one point for the final three races.

"It is essential to grab all 10 points in Portugal," said Hill, who drove doggedly through a demanding race, his visor often covered in oil from Gerhard Berger's Ferrari in the opening laps.

Austrian Berger, driving with great spirit despite a high speed crash during the morning warm-up, finished second ahead of Finland's Mika Hakkinen in a McLaren.

Afterwards, Berger revealed how shocked he had been by the chaos around him following his accident, particularly as the session was not halted.

He lay in the sand in a

runoff area only metres from the track while cars continued to race past at 300 kph.

"Today I learned a lot about safety again," he said. "It was a simple accident, but so many mistakes were made this morning. From the first moment to the hospital, it was just unbelievable."

He said the track marshalls did not know how to undo his helmet and take it off and that, at Monza hospital, where he was sent for X-rays of his neck, he was embroiled in further arguments because of delays and mistakes.

As the senior drivers' representative and a close friend of the late Ayrton Senna, Berger's words will be heeded well.

Americans bomb out at World Cup

LONDON (AP) — The United States, home to the strongest collection of track and field athletes in the world, was a miserable flop at the World Cup.

The U.S. men, who won the cup in 1979, 1985 and 1989, finished sixth out of eight teams when the three-day competition concluded Sunday. The team won only three of the 20 events over the weekend and had six last-place finishes, more than any other team.

In addition, the men couldn't get four runners together for the final event, the 1,600-metre relay. One of the scheduled starters was injured and his replacement, according to team officials, was "unavailable."

Organisers were unimpressed.

"It's a humiliation," said Christopher Winner, spokesman for the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). "If they can't put together a 4-by-400 relay team because one person pulls out sick, something's wrong."

The U.S. women fared even worse than the men, failing to win even one of the 17 events. They had four last-place finishes.

The problem: Both squads were understrength. Not first-string. Not even second-string. Unlike the other teams, the United States held trials for the World Cup — the national championships in June — where the big names such as Carl Lewis, Mike Powell and Leroy Bur-

rell didn't show.

As a result, there was only one reigning world champion among the two squads, women's 400-metre runner Jearl Miles. And she hasn't exactly had a banner year.

Another reason for the poor U.S. turnout was the timing of the event, which comes after a long Grand Prix season. It's an excuse that Antonio Pettigrew, who won a rare American victory in the 400 metres on Saturday, understands with mixed feelings.

"I couldn't blame them," Pettigrew said, "but if we are going to keep the sport going, let's support everything globally."

The World Cup itself is also reason for the lack of

America interest. The event has lost its attraction since the advent of the World Championships in 1983.

Since then, the cup has struggled to find its place on the track and field calendar, and has been held sporadically at intervals of two-, three- and four years. The last one was in 1992: the next will be in South Africa in 1996.

IAAF President Primo Nebiolo suggested the United States may lose its automatic entry in the event the net time around. There may be a system such as the one in Europe, where two World Cup spots are decided by the results from the European Cup.

"There may be a change," Nebiolo said. "Why not have an Americans Cup?"

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Dutchmen light up European soccer leagues

Rai's goal unlikely to save his place

PARIS (AFP) — Two Dutch names lit up European football at the weekend signalling the return of a prodigious striker and the founding of a football dynasty.

Jordi Cruyff shone in his first full game for Barcelona as proud father and club coach Johan looked on while in Italy Ruud Gullit was back on the goal trail after his return to AC Milan.

Cruyff the younger, appearing for the first time in the league at the Nou Camp stadium, scored one goal and was responsible for the second in the side's 2-1 win against Racing Santander.

Called into the side to plug gaps left by the injury to Romanian star Gheorghe Hagi and the suspension of Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov, Cruyff showed that his pre-season form was no flash in the pan.

Jordi, 20, top scorer in Barcelona's warm-up matches, scored with a header in the 10th minute to put Barcelona 1-0 ahead. Then he was backed down in the area to win the penalty scored by Ronald Koeman in the 29th minute.

"It was my first full game, so I am happy about that," said Cruyff, who made his league debut last week as a replacement in the 1-0 defeat against Sporting Gijon.

Meanwhile, Barcelona's poorer neighbours, newly promoted Espanol took the lead of the championship with a 4-0 win at Valladolid.

Espanol have scored eight goals in two matches with former AC Milan striker Florin Raducioiu of Romania

on target twice.

They lead on goal difference from Real Madrid who won 2-0 at home to Logronos.

Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano scored both goals to boost his personal goal tally to four in two games.

Deportivo La Coruna beat Sporting Gijon 2-1 while Tenerife, coached by Chilean Vicente Cantatore, beat Atletico Madrid 1-0 with a goal from Argentina's Juan Antonio Pizzi. Atletico are bottom of the table, Celta Vigo were held 1-1 at home by Athletic Bilbao.

In Italy Lazio, Parma and Sampdoria kept up their good start to the Italian league with a second straight win Sunday while Gullit scored his first goal for AC Milan since his comeback.

Giuseppe Signori, who scored in last week's 1-0 win over Bari, scored twice with Croatian Alen Boksic adding a third as Lazio beat Torino 3-0. Torino have now conceded five goals in their first two matches.

Colombian Faustino Asprilla, putting his World Cup debate behind him, also bagged a pair as Parma won 3-0 at Padua where U.S. World Cup player Alexei Lalas was often the only defender manning the breaches.

Padua lost 3-0 last week to David Platt's Sampdoria who on Sunday won 2-0 at Reggina, another newly promoted club, with goals from Roberto Mancini and Attilio Lombardo in the last five minutes.

Panama's Dely Valdes, with an overhead kick, saved

a point for Cagliari after Gullit had put Milan ahead. A season earlier the Dutchman had been rejected by Milan, who loaned him out to Sampdoria.

Argentina's World Cup striker Gabriel Batistuta scored his second goal in as many matches as Fiorentina drew 1-1 at Genoa.

Gianluca Vialli and German defender Jurgen Kohler scored the second half goals which gave Juventus an unconvincing 2-0 win over Bari.

In France, Nantes retained the lead of the championship but were in no mood for celebrations after throwing away a three-goal lead against Martigues.

Lyon are only one point behind and look a better bet with their convincing 4-1 win at Lille.

Nantes thought they had done enough when they led Martigues 3-0 but the home side came back strongly late in the second for a share of the points in a 3-3 draw.

Cannes are one point further back in third place thanks to their 3-1 away at Rennes.

Bordeaux slipped into the bottom half of the table with their 1-2 home defeat to Lens. In the first half a spectator was led away by police after running on to the field and attacking Lens goalkeeper Guillaume Warmuz.

Bordeaux President Alain Afflelou appealed for calm over the public address system.

Paris St. Germain won 3-0 at home to Metz and Auxerre hammered bottom club Caen 5-1.

Le Havre continued their climb out the basement with a last-gasp 1-0 win against who are only one rung off the bottom.

PARIS (R) — A diving header and a first goal of the season may not be enough to end a disappointing summer for departed Brazilian World Cup captain Rai.

Rai, unable to command a regular place with French champions Paris St. Germain, was given his chance in the league against Metz and took it, hitting a post and then scoring from a cross by his compatriot Valdo in the 3-0 win over Metz.

But when the Parisians meet Munich in the European Cup Wednesday, Rai is likely to find himself back in the stands at the Parc des Princes.

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With only three foreigners allowed to line up in European competition as opposed to four in the French league, Rai is almost certain to give way to Valdo, Brazilian defender Ricardo and Liberian striker George Weah.

The unfortunate Rai is rapidly getting used to the sidelines after being dropped by Brazilian trainer Carlos Alberto Pereira during the World Cup finals.

Instead of brandishing the trophy aloft himself, the sidelined Rai had to watch mid-fielder Dunga do the honours at the Pasadena Rose Bowl in July when Brazil captured the cup for the first time in 24 years.

The Brazilian's performance may not have won him a place on Wednesday but it did improve his standing with new PSG coach Luis Fernandez and there is no longer talk of a transfer to Japan or elsewhere.

"He showed he can make a claim for a place in the team just like anyone else," Fernandez said. "I'm happy that he's here and I intend to use him. There's no question of him leaving."

Fernandez gave away few clues to watching Bayern trainer Giovanni Trapattoni, leaving out four regular first-teamers against Metz.

Ball lashes out at big-spending clubs

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL Montana takes revenge

ATLANTA's Jeff George and Minnesota's Warren Moon showed they were the right quarterbacks for their new teams. But one proved more than Joe Montana.

George, who threw for three touchdowns in the Falcons' 31-13 victory over the Rams, looked much better Sunday than Atlanta's old quarterback, Chris Miller, now with Los Angeles. And Moon's Vikings beat Detroit and Scott Mitchell, whom Minnesota had tried to sign.

Montana, meanwhile, beat the team that traded him after he won four Super Bowl titles, throwing two touchdowns passes in the Kansas City Chiefs' 24-17 victory over the San Francisco 49ers. And he outplayed Steve Young, who took his job.

"The master still had some more to teach the student," Young said after Montana completed 19 of 31 passes for 203 yards.

In other games Sunday, Buffalo beat New England 38-35, Minnesota defeated Detroit 10-3, Tampa Bay beat Indianapolis 24-10, Atlanta defeated the Los Angeles Rams 31-13, Miami topped Green Bay 24-14 and Pittsburgh beat Cleveland 17-10.

Also, Dallas defeated Houston 20-17, Seattle beat the Los Angeles Raiders 38-9, Washington defeated New Orleans 38-24, the New York Jets beat Denver 25-22, San Diego topped Cincinnati 27-10 and the New York Giants defeated the Arizona Cardinals 20-17.

Young had a fine game, hitting 24 of 34 for 288 yards and a touchdown, but got little help from his teammates. He was sacked four times, threw two interceptions and fumbled once.

Another fumble, by San Francisco's John Taylor with 2:23 left, ended the 49ers' last chance.

Montana was reunited with his favourite target, Jerry Rice, who had a quite game, catching five passes for 78 yards.

Steve Christie saved the Bills (1-1) with a 32-yard field goal with 52 seconds left after his team blew a 14-point half-time lead.

Buffalo, the AFC champions the last four seasons, got in trouble when Jim Kelly, who threw four TDs in the first half, had two interceptions in the fourth quarter. Both led to New England touchdowns, tying the score at 35 with 4:22 left.

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♥ 5 4
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♣ K 6

WEST EAST
♠ Q 5 3 ♠ 10 8 7 4
♥ K 6 ♥ Q J 10 2
♦ 10 8 3 ♦ Q 8
♣ Q J 10 2 ♣ A 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A 6
♥ A 7 3
♦ A 4
♣ A 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠
Having a sound knowledge of the fundamentals of dummy play is only the first step to becoming a skilled declarer. Once you have mastered when to apply each technique, you have arrived. To understand what we mean, cover the East-West hands and decide how you would play three no trump after the lead of the queen of clubs.

Three no trump was not a difficult contract to reach. Both bids are textbook.

Your first problem comes at trick one. You know all about holdup

plays. Should you allow the queen of clubs to hold the first trick, or should you win?

You have passed your first test if you realized clubs was not the only danger suit. You might not be able to stand a heart shift at trick two, so you should snatch the trick immediately.

Next in your labors is which suit to tackle: spades or diamonds? And, if you selected diamonds, do you take the safe play of cashing the king and ace or do you finesse?

The trouble is you don't know how many tricks in diamonds you need until you know how many spade tricks you are destined to take. So move to the head of the class if, at trick two, you cashed the ace of spades (the queen could be singleton) and then finessed. If the spade finesse wins, you need only three diamond tricks, so it behooves you take the safe play.

Cash the king and ace of diamonds in that order and, if the queen doesn't drop, continue with a diamond toward the jack. You are home if the suit splits 3-3 or, if not, whenever West holds the queen. If you did not hit, nine tricks and the respect of your peers will be your reward.

Benn may not fight at home again after crowd brawl

LONDON (R) — Boxing world champion Nigel Benn has threatened not to fight in Britain again after his latest contest was seriously marred by a crowd trouble.

Seven people were injured in brawling and clashes outside the ring at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham Saturday night.

Benn's successful defence of his World Boxing Council (WBC) supermiddleweight crown against Paraguayan Juan Carlos Gimenez was televised and the trouble, which involved followers of two other boxers, was seen live by millions.

Violence flared between the fans of local fighter Robert McCracken, the so-called "Zulus", and rival boxer Steve Foster's supporters nicknamed the "Vikings".

Benn and Gimenez fought on, almost unnoticed, as the punches began to fly outside the ring during the fourth round of their bout.

Police in riot gear had to be

called in as the rival fans fought, ripping up barriers and throwing chairs. Others were forced to duck for cover from a barrage of missiles.

British Boxing Board of Control Secretary John Morris said on Sunday: "It was disgraceful... in my opinion both the public and the boxers were put in danger by the people who acted in a totally unacceptable, lunatic manner."

He praised the professionalism of the boxers and genuine fight fans but added: "Boxing cannot afford it and we must do everything we can to stamp it out."

Promoter Frank Warren vowed never again to promote either McCracken or Foster, whose violent supporters he condemned as "low-life scum."

Warren complained that the police failed to respond quickly enough and security "completely broke down."

Ken Baker, head of security at the arena, said they

would be holding an inquiry, but added: "We felt our response was adequate and we contained the trouble satisfactorily."

Benn was furious, despite his unanimous points victory. He said: "My mind was outside the ring. I saw chairs whizzing about in the crowd and it just broke my concentration."

"I've never seen anything like it — in boxing or at a football match. It ruined the night and could have cost me the title."

He added: "I think I might just go to America and fight there. 'I'll be sitting down and talking with my people about it.'"

The trouble also prompted a political set-to on Sunday after ruling Conservative Party Chairman Jeremy Hanley described the incident as "just exuberance" then had to issue an embarrassing retraction saying he should have condemned the brawling.

NEW YORK (AP) — Andre Agassi got off to a super-quick start and never slowed down until he had won his first U.S. Open men's singles championship Sunday, defeating Germany's Michael Stich 6-1, 7-6 (7-5), 7-5.

It was Agassi's second Grand Slam tournament title — he won Wimbledon in 1992 — and he became only the third unseeded player to capture the men's crown in America's premier tournament.

"I'm still in a state of shock," Agassi said. "Wow."

He also is \$550,000 richer, the first-place prize.

Agassi was brilliant at the beginning, ripping through the first set in just 24 minutes while breaking Stich's service three times. And except for the second game of the match — when Stich twice had a break point on his own serve — Agassi never faced a break point on his own serve.

"The first set, Andre was all over me," Stich said. "He played great tennis. It was a closer match in the second and third sets, but he's won it. It was this dream coming true, and I'm very happy for him."

Stich, too, began to hold serve, even though he had 10 double-faults to go along with an equal number of aces.

But in the 11th game of the third set, Agassi played at the top of his game again, breaking Stich at 15 and allowing Agassi to serve for the match. He lost the first point when he sailed a forehand volley wide, flubbing what seemed like an easy point. But then Stich made three unforced errors and, on match, Agassi popped a backhand down the line that Stich couldn't reach.

Agassi threw his racket into the air and dropped in his knees, burying his face in his hands. Stich walked to the other side, helped Agassi to his feet, then hugged the newest U.S. Open champion.

"When you play a guy who serves 120 mph (202 kph) consistently, you'd better be

returning serve well," Agassi said. "I came into this tournament 20th in the world and not seeded. I'm very grateful for all the support of these fans."

Stich was his own worst enemy, making 48 unforced errors against just 14 for the winner.

Agassi broke Stich in the first and third games of the match as he raced to a 4-0 lead. When he broke Stich again in the seventh games, Agassi had won the first set 6-1 in just 24 minutes.

Stich was seeded fourth in the year's final Grand Slam tournament, while Agassi was unseeded for the two-week event.

Agassi won the first seven points of the game, breaking Stich at love, then taking a 40-love lead on his own serve, before his German opponent could win a point. Stich had two break points — both coming on ad points — before Agassi held.

The right-bander from Las Vegas then broke Stich again in the third game at 30. Stich finally held his serve in the fifth game when he finished with his first two aces of the afternoon.

After Agassi held at love, he broke Stich from deuce to take a 1-0 in the best-of-5-sets match.

Agassi won a second-set tiebreaker 7-5 to move within one set of his second career Grand Slam tournament title. He won Wimbledon in 1992, the year after Stich won the British grass court crown.

Unlike the first set, there were no breaks of service in the second set. And while Stich had served seven aces through the first two sets against three by Agassi, it was the flamboyant American who had dominated with his serve.

Stich served harder; Agassi had the better placement.

In three of his six service games in the second set, Agassi held at love, and he was never taken to deuce.

Agassi knocks off Stich for 1st U.S. Open crown



Andre Agassi of the U.S. kisses girlfriend Brooke Shields after receiving the U.S. Open mens singles trophy in New York. Agassi won the championship 6-1, 7-6, 7-5 over Michael Stich of Germany (AFP photo)

Agassi is back in the top ten

NEW YORK (AFP) — Andre Agassi is back in the top 10 with a second Grand Slam trophy for his shelf after streaking through the U.S. Open tennis championships like a comet.

As Agassi collected the cup, and the \$550,000 winner's cheque, U.S. Tennis Association President Howard "Bumpy" Frazer proclaimed him "the most popular tennis player in the entire world."

Runner-up Michael Stich of Germany was probably right in finding those remarks a bit overblown, but there was no doubt the unseeded American's run enlivened an open short on star power both on and off the court.

World number one and defending champion Pete Sampras went out in the fourth round. Second-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia and German Boris Becker tumbled out in the first. Two-time champion Stefan Edberg was out in the third, Jim Courier out in the second, and French Open champion Sergi Bruguera of

Spain out in the fourth. Only two men's matches in the entire event involved two seeded players.

In all, only three seeded players made it to the quarterfinals. Stich, ninth-seeded American Todd Martin and number 13 Thomas Muster of Austria.

Agassi himself, whose number 20 ranking at the start of the tournament did not merit a seeding, ousted five seeded players, including sixth-seeded Michael Chang in a watershed five-set match.

Agassi credited his new coach, Brad Gilbert, with helping him develop the tougher attitude on display at the open.

"He has really brought an element to my game that I have never had," Agassi said. "I actually believe now that not only can I overcome my weaknesses mentally, but I can actually become stronger than most of the guys that I play."

Agassi was also buoyed by girlfriend Brooke Shields although her constant presence in the stylish Presi-

dent's Box could not disguise the downturn in celebrity attendance.

Last year the open drew Jack Nicholson, Tom Cruise and Cruise's actress wife Nicole Kidman.

This year's star-gazers, and there are a lot in New York, pretty much settled for Shields, gasping and cheering through Agassi's matches.

One sparkling wine seller at the National Tennis Centre said it took the prospect of good matches to lure the celebrities out of Manhattan to Flushing Meadows in Queens.

"Nobody comes to see Steffi Graf win again," she said.

Especially not Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who picked up her second Grand Slam title of the year with a three-set victory over Graf in the final.

Graf was clearly suffering with back pain that has bothered her for a month, but Sanchez Vicario's determination after dropping the first set in 22 minutes was surely that of a champion.

Players injured, tempers fray at Forte Grand tourney

AMMAN (J.T.) — Injuries and tempers Sunday began to creep into the Forte Grand TTT tennis tournament as it entered its second day.

In ladies doubles match at one set all, Jordanians Maha Al Said and Nuha Matter kept their cool as American Sandra Delp called for the umpire as tempers began to fray. The Jordanian pair finally pulled through winning 15 games to 13.

In the first round of the mixed doubles 2nd seeds Ehab Shehadeh and Randa Khayat won by default against Spanish couple Domingo Jimenez and Sr. Jerns Cortes. The Spaniards were about to cause the upset of the day when a stretch volley by Jimenez caused his ankle to give way and medical treatment was administered.

In the men's singles no. 1 seed Fredrick Deizez again proved why he is favourite by eliminating Spaniard Gustavo de Arstogui.

Sampras surprise addition to U.S. Davis Cup team

NEW YORK (R) — Pete Sampras, last seen shuffling off stadium court in total exhaustion after a shock fourth-round U.S. Open defeat, was a surprise choice to join the U.S. Davis Cup team for their semifinal later this month in Sweden.

"Pete Sampras has reconsidered after originally saying no," U.S. captain Tom Gullikson told a news conference at the open Sunday.

"He called me two nights ago and said he was feeling a lot better. His outlook was better and he feels he's ready to play."

Gullikson said world number one Sampras, would play singles on the indoor carpet in Gothenberg along with Todd Martin, who reached the semifinals at the open

before falling to the resurgent Andre Agassi.

The U.S. captain said doubles would be handled by former Stanford College teammates Jonathan Stark and Jared Palmer.

Gullikson said Agassi was not up for consideration because of a scheduling conflict with a series of exhibitions the flamboyant American had arranged when he was struggling to come back from wrist surgery.

"Andre was ranked 26th at the time and recovering from his wrist injury, and felt he was pretty far down in the Davis Cup depth list," Gullikson explained.

Gullikson indicated that Michael Chang had been his alternate choice had Sampras not been available.

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Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Cinema	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Cinema	Tel.: 675571	Cinema	Tel.: 625155
PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre		AHLAN THEATRE	
CARLITO'S WAY Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:50, 10:45 Thursday, Friday & Sunday for children The Care Bears at 11:00 a.m.		the best of comedies: Strawberry War (Arabic) Starring: Yusra, Mahmoud Hamida and Sahar Rami Shows at: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '1' THE PELICAN BRIEF Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Bruce Willis — In Striking Distance Shows: 3:30, 5:30 Presents the play: MA HUA AL-SAHNI YA ELEWA (It is the truth Elewa) Acting by: Rabea Shalabi, Ameer Khalil, Youssef Khatib, Youssef Youssef and Shaker Jaber. Curtains open at 8:30 p.m.		Presents the political comedy: Legal Evening Entertainment Starring: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalalaj, Hassan Al Shaer and Mahmoud Abu Gharib. For reservation call tel.: 618274 - 618275		Today & Everyday Abu, Awad in social comedy "FUNCTURED BAG"		Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday is the theatre's holiday	

NEWS IN BRIEF

Christopher reassures Arafat over aid talks

GAZA CITY (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher sent a message to Yasser Arafat on Monday pledging to "try to lift obstacles" blocking a donor conference. Mr. Arafat spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina said. He gave no further details. The talks were postponed in Paris last week after Israel rejected a Palestinian bid to include projects in East Jerusalem, which is not covered by the autonomy agreement. The international donor meeting will now be held Tuesday in Oslo during a visit by Mr. Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to coincide with the anniversary of the autonomy deal.

Lebanon opposes lifting Israel boycott

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon will argue against lifting the Arab economic boycott of Israel at this week's Arab League Council meeting in Cairo, diplomatic sources said on Monday. Foreign Minister Fawzi Bouzeid will emphasize Lebanon's opposition to an immediate end to the boycott in his speech to the council on Wednesday, they said. The sources said the U.S. administration of President Bill Clinton was making efforts at the highest level to persuade Arab League states to embark on an immediate lifting of the boycott. Mr. Bouzeid would underline that the boycott should only be lifted as part of a general Middle East peace settlement, they added.

Qadhafi sends message to Clinton

TUNIS (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has sent a message to U.S. President Bill Clinton, Libyan and diplomatic sources in Tripoli said on Monday. Col. Qadhafi expressed in the message his disappointment over the United States' position towards Libya, the sources said. But he suggested nothing new about the Lockerbie affair. Libya is under United Nations sanctions for failing to hand over to the United States or Britain for trial two Libyan suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. Col. Qadhafi said earlier this month he would never hand them over. The Belgian ambassador, who represents U.S. interests in Tripoli, was summoned on Sunday by Foreign Minister Omar Al Montasser, who asked him to transmit Col. Qadhafi's oral message, the sources said.

Egyptian kills wife after population debate

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian stabbed his wife to death after she refused to go to bed with him following a heated discussion on the U.N. population conference, a Cairo newspaper reported on Monday. Al Wafid daily said the husband surrendered himself to police in the town of Qena in southern Egypt but gave no names. The newspaper said the man confessed he stabbed his wife to death after she refused to go to bed with him following a discussion on women's freedoms called for at the population conference in Cairo. Police declined comment on the report.

'Iraq embargo has cost Turkey \$50b'

ANKARA (AFP) — The United Nations embargo imposed on Iraq since its August 1990 occupation of Kuwait has cost Turkey about \$50 billion in lost trade, Ankara's industry and commerce minister says. "This embargo needs to be lifted. The people of the two countries can no longer bear it," Mehmet Donen said, cited by the Anatolia news agency. Mr. Donen made his comments after meetings with Iraqi Industry Minister Mehdi Saleh, who was visiting Izmir, western Turkey, for an annual international fair.

Kuwait gunmen would cash exchange clerk

KUWAIT (R) — A gunman wounded a clerk during a failed robbery attempt on a Kuwait foreign exchange shop, newspapers reported on Monday. Khalid Sharif, general manager of Dollar exchange in Kuwait City's Hassawi area, said Sunday's attack on his company was the first time a thief had tried to rob any foreign exchange kiosks in broad daylight and at gunpoint. "If the security situation continues like this, then it will be very difficult for us to continue our business," he was quoted as saying by the English-language Kuwait Times. There has been a spate of robberies at Kuwaiti shopping malls over the past month. Dozens of shops at a time have been robbed by gangs conducting night-time break-ins.

Rebel Kurds kill six teachers

TUNCALI, Turkey (R) — Separatist Kurdish guerrillas shot dead six teachers of a village primary school in southeastern Turkey, officials said on Monday. The overnight attack in Tunceli province came hours before the teachers of Dantek village were to begin classes on the first day of the new school year. The report could not be independently confirmed. The rebel Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), seeking a separate Kurdish state in southeast Turkey, killed more than a score of unarmed village teachers last year, including women educators.

Bhutto heads for Morocco, Spain

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto left Islamabad on Monday to start a five-day visit to Morocco and Spain, officials said. A government statement said Ms. Bhutto would meet King Hassan in the Moroccan city of Fez soon after her arrival. Her talks with her Moroccan counterpart Abdelatif Filali would focus on Kashmir, Bosnia, Afghanistan and the Palestinians, as well as bilateral issues, it said. Ms. Bhutto is due to travel on to Spain on Tuesday, marking the first visit by a Pakistani prime minister for 38 years.

3 British soldiers killed in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — Three British U.N. soldiers were killed and five were injured on Monday when their armoured vehicle rolled down a hill in the eastern town of Gorazde in Bosnia. United Nations sources said. Two of the injured Britons were evacuated for medical treatment at a U.N. base in the northern town of Tuzla and three were flown to Split on the Croatian coast, U.N. sources said in Sarajevo. No further details of the accident were immediately available. A British soldier was killed last week in the Muslim enclave of Gorazde in another accident involving a Saxon vehicle.

Islah Party postpones first conference

SANAA (AFP) — Yemen's powerful Muslim fundamentalist party Al Islah on Monday announced the last-minute postponement of its first general congress because of a key debate in parliament over Islamic law. A spokesman said Tuesday's gathering had been postponed indefinitely because the party general secretary, Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar, was busy with his duties as speaker of parliament, where the debate on constitutional changes began on Saturday. Party spokesman Hamud Hashem Dharraji said a new date for the congress would be set after the debate. Some 2,400 delegates were to have attended the three-day congress setting out Al Islah's political direction and electing new structures, including a 100-strong central committee.

Lebanon deports 317 Egyptians

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese authorities on Monday deported 317 Egyptian nationals who entered the country illegally, the Lebanese official news agency said. The National News Agency said the Egyptians were put on a cargo ship that sailed from the northern port of Tripoli heading for an Egypt port.

Yemen denies contact with Israel, will join regional accords

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE GOVERNMENT OF Yemen never had any contact with Israel over Yemeni Jewish emigration and does not encourage Yemeni Jews to emigrate to Israel, says Planning Minister Abdul Karim Iryani.

Dr. Iryani also said Yemen was participating in the multi-lateral phase of the Arab-Israeli peace process and would like to be part of regional cooperation arrangements in a situation of peace and security.

Dr. Iryani, during a recent interview with the Jordan Times in Sanaa, said Yemen was assigning diplomats from the concerned missions to attend the meetings of the various multilateral working groups wherever they take place and the Sanaa government was closely following the developments in the various tracks.

Of course geography makes Yemen less in need of playing an immediate role in the peace process, he said. "But Yemen has been participating in the discussions. On the basis of the outcome of the peace process as a whole, whatever becomes in terms of regional commitments of all states of the region, Yemen will of course not exclude itself from any economic cooperation arrangements," he said, adding:

"But, as you well know, any application of any agreement should commensurate with a state of peace."

Dr. Iryani categorically denied reports of bilateral contacts between the governments of Israel and Yemen.

"There has been no communication or negotiation or contact of any kind between the state of Israel and the government of Yemen," Dr. Iryani said in reply to a question on reports in the Israeli press of an Israeli-Yemeni dialogue on moving Yemeni Jews to Israel.

However, Dr. Iryani left the door open for the possibility that private Jewish organisations in the two countries might be having contacts without government approval or knowledge.

"The fact is that there are Jewish families living in Israel (and) they have relatives in Yemen," he said. "Our constitution makes the freedom of travel one of the basic tenets of human rights. Therefore the government of Yemen has been issuing passports to Jewish citizens just the same as any other Yemeni citizen."

"Of course, it is also a fact that some of them do not return back," he said. "But not all of them go to Israel. We are sure of that."

"Some of them remain in the U.S., some of them re-

main in England and some of them go to Israel like any other Yemeni going to the U.S. or England," said the minister. "But the fact that some of them go to Israel is up to them because that eventually sever any link between them and the Yemeni government."

Technically Yemeni passports allow holders to travel to all countries except Israel. Dr. Iryani said he could not provide a clear estimate of Jews who remain in Yemen. "About two years ago, there were less than 1,000. How many of them have migrated, I am not aware of. But probably now they are less than 700. I'd guess that," he said.

According to diplomatic sources, representatives of the Jewish agency, the body which is in charge of Jewish immigration to Israel, used to be regular visitors to Yemen travelling on Western passports to arrange the transfer of Yemeni Jews to Israel.

"They used to come here under prearranged visits, make their contacts and leave after making actual travel schedules for those who want to migrate to Israel," said one diplomat. "The government may or may not be aware of what is going on, but officials do not purposely take it difficult for Yemeni Jews to leave the country."

A delegation representing an American Jewish organisation was in Sanaa two weeks ago. It kept a low profile and it was not known if the team was seeking to encourage Yemeni Jews to leave the country.

Nearly 700 Yemeni Jews were moved from Yemen to Israel in 1993 in an operation organised by the Jewish Agency. "The government of Yemen was not directly involved in the move," said the diplomat. "What they did was simply ignored the arrangements, perhaps because they felt it was good riddance anyway."

According to the diplomat as well as Yemeni sources, most of the Yemeni Jews who would want to emigrate to Israel have already left the country. More than 60,000 Yemeni Jews have moved to Israel since the Jewish state was created in 1948, reports say.

"In fact some of them have come home after a few days in Israel," said the western diplomat. "They say they are Yemeni first and Yemeni last and their home is in Yemen."

Most of the Yemeni Jews are businessmen or expert craftsmen. Although Jewish communities maintain a close-knit life wherever they exist, they are scattered throughout Yemen, but mostly in the north. A few also live in Aden in the South.

4 held over CNN film on female circumcision

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian police held three men Monday on charges they circumcised a 10-year-old girl in an illegal operation videotaped by the American Cable News Network (CNN).

The girl's father was released on bail of 200 pounds (\$60), the government prosecutor said. And he said a part-time CNN employee who helped arrange the taping was interrogated under a law making it a crime to disseminate information damaging Egypt's image, was released without bail but subject to rearrest.

Female circumcision is banned but commonplace in Egypt. Officials were said to have been angered by CNN International's showing of the operation last Wednesday, fearing it would portray Egypt as a backward country.

A police officer at Cairo's Darb Al Ahmar station, where the case is being handled, said the case was too important to discuss. He said it involved the dignity of Egypt, so significant that president Hosni Mubarak "is concerned about the case."

CNN filmed the operation for a report on female circumcision in connection with the U.N. population conference in Cairo, a large part of which is concerned with women's rights.

An estimated 70 to 85 per cent of Egyptian women undergo some form of circumcision — which can range from the clipping of the tip of the clitoris to removal of the outer part of the sex organs.

Adel Fahmi, the deputy prosecutor general, said the three suspects were being held without bail on charges of "performing illegal surgery" and for "looking at sensitive body parts."

It is against the law to circumcise girls except in a medical facility. But many doctors refuse to perform the operation, considering it a medical facility. And he said a doctor who refused to perform the operation, considering it a medical facility. And he said a doctor who refused to perform the operation, considering it a medical facility.

The government newspaper Al Akhbar reported that those arrested with the young girl's father were a barber, a plumber and a florist.

Al Akhbar said the CNN employee, Nivine Hamdan, whose full-time job is as an English teacher at the American University in Cairo, contacted the florist to find a family whose daughter was about to be circumcised and who would be willing to have the procedure videotaped.

The barber, Anwar Mohammad Mahmoud, performed the surgery that was taped, assisted by the unidentified plumber.

Several men held the girl, Naglaa, down and forced her legs apart as the barber cut into her genitalia using a barber's razor, before the camera showed a close-up of Naglaa's pain-stricken face.

CNN's Egypt correspondent Gayle Young denied police claims that the father was offered 50 pounds on behalf of CNN to allow the filming.



WHITE HOUSE CRASH: A Washington fireman looks at the wreckage of a small plane as an airport truck driver with mental disorder (see page five) (AFP photo)

North, South do not see eye-to-eye at Cairo forum

From Mariam M. Shabin in Cairo

AS THE International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) hedged to an end, major differences about the Cairo plan of action remained as a North-South divide grew on the issue of family reunification rights and an Islamic opposition about terminology on sexual rights remained adamant.

The conference's main drafting committee continued consultations on terminology on the plan of action chapter dealing with "reproductive and sexual health and rights." The chapter includes a definition of sexual rights, including those of individuals rather than couples and confidential advice to teenagers on sex.

Pakistan, Iran and Egypt, the Muslim countries which are in a 15-nation drafting committee, expressed serious concerns about the terminology, which they felt encouraged both homosexuality and pre-marital sex, both forbidden in Islam.

"We feel this is an infringement on our culture and religion," said Thuraia Savafad, an Iranian delegate.

Feminists also note that a reference in the document to "respect for... physical integrity of the human body," which would give women absolute rights over their bodies was "deleted."

The Cairo document defines "couples" as marriages and "other unions." This is being interpreted as a reference to homosexual or out-of-wedlock couples. Western delegates have said that they were willing

to discard the term "other unions" but would make special references to cultural and tradition norms.

Family reunification

Another thorny issue at the conference, which ends on Tuesday, is that of family reunification rights.

The North-South divide has become the strongest over the rights of immigrant and migrant workers. The rather strained dialogue in Cairo is over whether immigrants and migrants have the "right" to bring their families to the host countries as part of family reunification policies or whether it is simply a principle rather than a right.

The head of the U.S. delegation Tim Wirth, who is undersecretary for global affairs, expressed the view of most host nations to immigrants and migrant workers. "This conference cannot create new rights," Mr. Wirth told reporters Monday morning. "Rights have a particular technical term in the United Nations system and we have to be very careful to recognise and respect this process."

The issue pits the United States and Canada as well as countries in the European Community, which have been trying to limit the number of new immigrants entering their borders, against North African, Asian and Latin American countries from which most of the migrants and immigrants stem.

European Union spokesman Klaus-Henning Rosen, said that Europe would accept a "qualified" version of the "rights" clause, which would refer

to a country's national law.

The text forwarded by the working group gathered in Cairo to discuss the issue reads: "Governments of receiving countries must recognise as vital importance of family reunification and promote its integration into their national legislation in order to ensure the protection of the unity of the families of documented migrants in a manner consistent with the universally recognised human rights instruments."

While the Vatican supports "the right" to family reunification, many delegates from developed nations have reportedly had corridor conversations with delegates from the Third World in which a tit-for-tat exchange of dropping "other unions" in the sexual rights section in reciprocal for dropping the word "rights" in the family reunification section has been discussed.

"The West is petrified about having an invasion of immigrant women and children joining their 'guest-worker' husbands and fathers. They believe internally it would backfire," said a delegate from Pakistan.

Non-governmental agencies representing migrant groups in Europe have lobbied to give "equal rights" to families of both documented and undocumented migrant and immigrant families — thus far they have been unsuccessful.

The Cairo programme of action is intended as setting policy guidelines which would hold the world's population to 7.27 billion in the year 2015, up from today's 5.67 billion.

Ankara seeks Israeli lieutenant held as terror suspect

TEL AVIV (AP) — An army lieutenant was arrested Monday on suspicion of belonging to a Jewish terrorist ring in the West Bank, Israeli media reported.

Lieutenant Robi Pinto, 23, is at least the tenth Israeli held since Sept. 2. Most are from Lt. Pinto's hometown of Kiryat Arba, a militant settlement outside the West Bank city of Hebron, or the Jewish enclaves in Hebron itself.

Army radio said Lt. Pinto had studied at the same military boarding school as the central suspect in the case, Lt. Oren Edri, 23. Lt. Edri, also of Kiryat Arba, is accused of planning to turn over weapons to Jewish militants.

Police spokesman Offer Sivan refused to confirm or deny the reports of the arrest. The numbers of detentions would make the alleged group the largest anti-Arab underground uncovered in the West Bank since 1984, when a 25-member ring was arrested for a series of attacks.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said Monday that the group was exposed just before a planned large-scale terrorist attack on Palestinians. Mr. Sarid denied claims by lawyers representing the suspects that they have been mistreated by interrogators.

The supreme court was to decide later Monday on appeals to overturn severe restrictions placed on the suspects' visitation rights.

Officials have compared the Israeli suspects to Palestinian militants who wage attacks in an effort to stymie the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord signed a year ago.

Such militants have taken responsibility for the 13 deaths of Israelis since the autonomy accord with the Palestinians was implemented in Jericho and Gaza in May.

Among the Israel's detained is Yaacov Ben-Zeev, 30, of Pisgat Zeev, a Jewish suburb in East Jerusalem. Ben-Zeev, a building contractor, reportedly converted from Islam to Judaism several years ago, and changed his name.

Meanwhile allegations of police brutality against the suspects of the anti-Arab underground had some Israelis questioning the draconian measures they used for years in fighting Palestinian resistance.

In the debate that flared Sunday, even the head of the Shin Bet secret security agency was called on the carpet for alleged beatings of Jewish prisoners and confining of a Jewish settler to a coffin-size cell for three days.

With little evidence surfacing, and suspects being denied access to their lawyers for days, while facing a judge only behind closed doors, their cases are becoming considered more and more as a public civil rights issue.

Military rules such as keeping a detainee incommunicado for up to three weeks have been imposed mostly against Palestinians.

COLUMN

Man's best friend is worst enemy in Beijing

BEIJING (R) — Beijing authorities have ordered a crackdown on the number of pet dogs in the Chinese capital, saying the canine population has tripled since 1986. The Xinhua News Agency said Monday the increasing number of dogs threatened people's lives, with more reported cases of people being bitten by rabid dogs. A revised draft of regulations before the municipal legislature for approval would ban selling and breeding of dogs and their exhibition for business purposes. Raising "big and fierce" dogs would also be banned. There are more than 190,000 dogs in Beijing, 70,000 of which are in urban areas — 3.5 times the figure in 1986, the agency said. China began eradicating strays and other "pests" like rats, flies and locusts soon after the 1949 Communist Revolution to improve hygiene, especially in cities. In campaigns to cull the canine population of Chinese cities, authorities mobilised "dog-beating squads" to roam alleys and bludgeon the dogs to death with metal bars, sometimes as distraught owners looked on. But the practice of keeping dogs as pets has become the latest craze among Beijing's new rich. Pet shops have sprung up all over the city selling expensive pedigree animals, many of them smuggled in from abroad, and offering manicure and grooming services. Fashionable women like to be seen in public cuddling their fluffy lap-dogs.

Russian province invaded by bears

MOSCOW (AFP) — The autonomous Jewish region of Birobidzhan in Russia's far east has fallen prey to an invasion of brown bears drawn by the cedar forests there, the ITAR-TASS agency reported Sunday. According to local hunters' Chairman Alexei Peshkov cited by the agency, the invasion was the result of an unusually large autumnal migration of the animals from the neighbouring region of Amur attracted by their favourite food — cedar cones. One bear was sighted in the territory's main town, also called Birobidzhan, not far from a school and several others were seen in residential areas. Local authorities warned that the bears could be dangerous, although recent attacks by the animals were not serious.

Anti-child abuse groups meet in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Groups fighting child abuse agreed at the opening of a three-day forum here Sunday to work with governments to identify potential aggressors to stop abuse before it happens. "Prevention is the only way to stop abuse of children," said Richard Krugman, president of the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (IPSCAN). "Treatments never completely heal and take up too much energy and money," he said. Mr. Krugman said mistreatment and neglect of young people was a problem at the outset. Mr. Krugman said at the forum, attended by about 900 experts from 62 countries. Mohammad Sham Kassim, president of the Malaysian chapter for IPSCAN, said abused children who did not receive proper help had a tendency to become tormentors themselves in later life. "From IPSCAN's knowledge, scores of endangered girls have been forced into prostitution in Thailand by their own families and caretakers, while many other children in Pakistan have been exploited to work in carpet-making factories," Mr. Sham said. "In India, there are still reports of young brides being burnt to death for not bringing enough dowry to their husbands," he said. Malaysia's National Unity and Social Development Minister Napsiah Omar, who opened the forum, urged governments to provide adequate human resources and funds and establish proper agencies and laws to fight child abuse.

Stock slide continues

Stock prices continued to slide on Monday, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average falling 100 points to 5,100. The slide was attributed to concerns over the economy and the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

Jordan, I describin

Jordan, I describin... The Jordanian government has announced a new initiative to improve the lives of its citizens. The initiative includes a series of reforms in the education, health, and economic sectors. The government hopes that these reforms will lead to a more stable and prosperous future for the country.

Peres, Arafat to break dead

Peres, Arafat to break dead... The leaders of Israel and the PLO, Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat, are expected to meet in the near future to discuss the current state of the peace process. Both leaders have expressed a willingness to break the current stalemate and move forward with negotiations.

Hardliners st to oppose self

Hardliners st to oppose self... Within the Israeli government, there are growing concerns that hardline factions may oppose any further concessions to the Palestinians. These factions believe that the current peace process is too one-sided and that Israel should take a more assertive stance.